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OUR NEW DIARY.

THE binders are now busy packing copies of THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1899, for our home subscribers, and we hope to have most of them despatched by Monday. All home subscribers whose subscriptions are in force this month should receive their DIARIES before the next issue of the *C. & D.* They are sent carriage paid.

DIARY COMPETITION.

EACH copy of the DIARY contains a voting coupon which entitles the receiver to compete for ten guineas, which we offer in prizes for the best answer to the questions given on the card. We should like to have a good response this year, and those who examine the DIARY advertisements will find it a profitable pleasure.

OUR WINTER NUMBER.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST Winter Number will be published on January 23, 1899. We can insert circulars and price-lists in that issue, and any firms who are thinking of making a good advertisement of this kind to the drug-trade cannot do better than ask the *C. & D.* publisher what he would advise. It is important to place orders with us as soon as possible. There is no question of the advantage of this method of distributing circulars to the trade. The cost by the *C. & D.* way is about a fourth of what it is sending singly by circular-post; we see that every one of our insets gets to a live business-man, and we save advertisers all the worry and trouble of addressing, &c.

Summary.

METHYLATED WHISKY is sold at Chorley (p. 836).

THERE is a strike of brushmakers for higher wages. We give some particulars on p. 915.

MR. BEECHAM replies to his critics, and other correspondents join in the argument (p. 911).

WE report an interesting lecture by Mr. C. H. Bothamley on photographic developers (p. 896).

DINNERS OF THE GLASGOW CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION and of the Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibition are reported (p. 891).

A CHEMIST AT CALNE sold heavy carbonate of magnesia when heavy magnesia was asked for, and has been fined for his error (p. 894).

PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATE AND PAPER MAKERS should mark the date of manufacture on the packets, says a correspondent (p. 912).

THE INDIAN AND COLONIAL ADDENDUM to the British Pharmacopœia has been drafted and is fairly epitomised in this issue (p. 906).

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL has continued its sittings throughout this week, dealing with some "infamous-conduct" cases (p. 908).

DR. F. B. POWER, at the annual dinner of the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy, discoursed on technical education in Great Britain (p. 890).

TO ADVERTISE "Lady Montrose Tablets" and things of that sort costs five times more in some quarters than decent advertisements do (p. 835).

"ORGANOIDS" is the title that Dr. McWalter now gives to animal substances or preparations thereof used medicinally. See his paper on p. 895.

MR. ARNOLD FOSTER, M.P., asks the assistance of the drug-trade to promote complete adoption of the metric system in the British Empire (p. 911).

COCAINE IS DEARER, so are bromides and saffron. Camphor and quinine are quiet. Several articles show signs of firmness, and business is good (p. 916).

MR. DREW, the coroner, discussed with a chemist the sale of children's powders; and a doctor who gave evidence said the chemist's position was a difficult one (p. 883).

THE COURT OF APPEAL has ordered Mr. C. Fahlberg to hand over to Wilson, Salomon & Co. (Limited) certain books which will reveal what saccharin costs to make (p. 833).

THE BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE has placed spt. chloroform, spt. ether., tr. lobelia ether., and some other alcoholic preparations on the drawback list. Further particulars on p. 903.

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF IDRIS & CO. (LIMITED) and of Boots (Limited) are reported. Mr. Boot states that the customers of the company were 700,000 more this year than in 1897 (p. 911).

MESSRS. J. & J. COLMAN have won an action against a retailer in respect to their mustard; and the Court of Appeal has found in favour of a trader against whom the makers of Sunlight soap had brought an action (p. 893).

THE MEMORIAL TO THE IRISH PRIVY COUNCIL by a Belfast defendant for a reduction of his fine under the Pharmacy Act, and the reply of the Pharmaceutical Council, are given in full. The memorial prevailed (p. 912).

A GENERAL MEETING of the members of the Pharmaceutical Society is suggested to consider the adoption of poison regulations, Mr. Robinson, L.C.C., having heard that this will bring the Privy Council into harmony with the Society (p. 837).

THE B. P. COMMITTEE recommends that criticisms of the new B.P. be at once dealt with by experts, that the Pharmaceutical Societies be invited to co-operate, and that Dr. Tirard be appointed reporter on pharmacology and therapeutics, Dr. Attfield retaining his position on the pharmaceutical side (p. 906).

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

School of Tropical Medicine.

A school of tropical medicine has been founded in London, with headquarters at the Seamen's Hospital, Victoria and Albert Docks, E. The class-rooms, &c. (now in course of erection), will not be ready until October of next year, by which time the constitution and curriculum of the school will have been formulated.

Tragic Sequel to a Fire.

A slight fire broke out on November 23 at the shop of Mr. J. Brown, pharmaceutical chemist, Hockley Hill, Birmingham. Mrs. Brown, on discovering the outbreak of the flames, rushed into the room and immediately fell back dead. The deceased lady had been suffering for some time from heart-disease.

P.A.T.A. Policy at Manchester.

The new P.A.T.A. Committee of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association have issued a circular to the chemists of Manchester and district, stating that the P.A.T.A. scheme may not be absolutely perfect in every detail, but claiming that it is an honest attempt to deal with an admitted evil, and to secure at least a living-profit on every article chemists are called upon to handle. The committee appeal to every chemist and druggist, who is not already a member, to join the P.A.T.A. They have passed the following resolution:—"That the chemists of Manchester and district are invited hereby not to exhibit showcards, displays, &c., nor to issue printed matter, nor otherwise advertise non-protected articles," and they ask chemists to co-operate in carrying out this resolution.

Obstructing the Pathway.

At Derby, on November 23, Arthur Wilson, manager for Messrs. Boots (Limited), St. James's Street, Derby, was summoned for obstructing the free passage of the pavement in St. James's Street on November 15. A policeman stated that three large boxes remained on the pavement facing the shop for two hours. He had asked the defendant to have the boxes removed. Mr. Wilson said he had been at the branch for only a short time, and the boxes were waiting to be taken away by the railway company. As soon as the officer spoke to him he informed the railway company that the boxes were waiting to be taken away. A fine of 2s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. costs was imposed.

The Nux Not Guilty.

An adjourned inquest was held on November 21, at West Hartlepool, into the death of a woman named Vicars. Deceased was apparently in good health until November 18, when she went to her brother, John William Carter, who keeps a homœopathic medical dépôt in the town, and he gave her a dose of homœopathic nux vomica. On returning home she was seized with sickness, and died the same night. Mr. Carter, in his evidence, said deceased complained to him of pain in the pit of the stomach, and he treated her for indigestion, giving her eight drops of homœopathic solution of nux vomica. This was a greater dose than Dr. Ruddock recommended, but was not more than was recommended by other authorities. Questioned by a juryman, he stated that he quite understood the difference which existed between his relations to the public and those of a registered chemist and druggist. A *post-mortem* examination had been made, and the medical evidence showed that deceased was suffering from chronic heart disease and indigestion. To administer nux vomica in such conditions the doctors held to be unwise, but the dose administered was a safe one to a healthy person. The actual cause of death was stoppage of the heart's action, due to excessive vomiting, for which they did not think the nux vomica was responsible. The jury returned a verdict of death from heart-disease.

Accidents at Chemical-works.

On November 25 a labourer named William Thorpe, employed at the works of Messrs. Spencer, Chapman & Co.,

chemical-manufacturers, Silvertown, fell into a tank of boiling copperas solution. Deceased was found by his brother, with whom he was working in the arsenic department, lying head downwards in the tank and quite dead. It is not known how the accident occurred. At the inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned.

An inquest was held at South Shields on November 23 regarding the death of Thomas Southern (25), who died from the effects of injuries received while following his employment at the Hedworth Barium Company's works, East Jarrow. Deceased was engaged in the calcium-chloride department, his duty being to clean out the crystal-coolers. Owing to the guard-rail being insufficiently secured he fell into a cooler which contained a scalding-hot liquid to the depth of about 2 feet. He was removed to the infirmary, but died next day.

Poison in the Clothes.

At a meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Birmingham City Council, on November 24, it was stated that about sixty men who were engaged in clearing the snow from the streets on the previous day were suffering from poisoned hands and arms, and had been under hospital treatment. It was ascertained that all of these men had been supplied with coats and overalls to wear while at work, and on becoming soaked by the sleet and rain, the garments gave off a peculiar odour, and a skin-eruption on the arms, hands, and thighs of the wearers was the result. Dr. Hill, medical officer of health, analysed the cloth, and found that it contained chloride of zinc.

Methylated Whisky.

At Chorley Petty Sessions, on November 22, an old man named Thomas Parkinson pleaded guilty to selling methylated spirit prepared as a beverage. Thomas's method was to call at various houses, produce a bottle which looked like whisky but was in reality methylated spirit coloured with burnt sugar, and invite the occupants to taste it. His clients do not seem to have been hypercritical connoisseurs of genuine whisky, for he succeeded in selling a pint of his concoction for 1s. on more than one occasion, as shown by the evidence. One of the witnesses for the prosecution was Mr. F. Oatley, chemist, Chorley, who deposed to selling to accused quantities of methylated spirit at various times, to be used, ostensibly, for polishing-purposes. Mr. Oatley, however, on the third application became suspicious, and declined to hand over further supplies. Prisoner, against whom were many previous convictions of a like nature, was fined 25s., or in default three months' imprisonment.

The Blackmail Charges.

The three brothers Chimes, who are attracting so much newspaper attention at present, again appeared at the Mansion House on November 23, on the charge of threatening to accuse Mrs. Kate Clifford of a crime with the view to extort money, and also with inciting various women to commit unlawful offences. The prisoners were said to have been the proprietors of the "Lady Montrose female tabules," and also to have traded as the "Panolia Company" and "Mitchell & Co." The "Montrose" and "Panolia" specifics were advertised as abortifacients, and the women who asked for supplies were threatened with punishment by "Mitchell & Co." if a sum of two guineas was not sent as hush-money. Evidence was given by various women as to the methods of extortion already described, and Frederick Geo. White, an advertisement agent, spoke to inserting advertisements in various papers for the prisoners, from whom he had received about 2000l. Some papers, he alleged, charged a higher rate for that class of advertisement. As an instance he stated that the *Weekly Times and Echo* charged five times their ordinary rate for such advertisements. Mr. Berrill, a laboratory manager for Mr. Wand, manufacturing chemist, Leicester, deposed to making up tabules, pills, and powder, and supplying castor oil to one of the prisoners, Richard Chimes, in the name of Randall. The tabules consisted of reduced iron and arseniate of iron, and were a good blood-tonic, but had no special value for female complaints. He knew nothing about their sale under the names of "Lady Montrose," "Panolia," and "Mona." The prescriptions came from a firm the business of which he understood Randall had

purchased. The payments for the medicines amounted to 150*l.* Further evidence having been given, the prisoners were remanded.

Poisons taken in Mistake.

Mrs. Emily Darlow, of Hull, died on November 23 from the effects of drinking a quantity of solution of corrosive sublimate in mistake for soda-water. The disinfectant and soda-water were side by side in cups of the same size.

Alderman Cory Wright, Chairman of the Hornsey District Council, has been indisposed, and on November 25 took, as he thought, his medicine. The mixture, however, turned out to be a poison, and medical aid had to be obtained. The Alderman is progressing favourably.

Dr. Eden McGarity, of Peshaw, Durham, was found dead in bed on November 27. At the inquest, held on November 28, Mrs. McGarity gave evidence that her husband, on going to bed, took a dose of chloral to induce sleep. The jury returned a verdict that death was the result of an overdose.

John Carr, of East Greenwich, drank some liquid ammonia in mistake for gin and ginger-beer. A doctor was called in, castor oil and other antidotes administered, but the man died in the Seamen's Hospital shortly after admission. The house-physician of that institution stated, at the inquest, which was held on November 24, that death was due to pneumonia arising from the action of the ammonia on the lungs.

The Wise Man's Public-house.

At Grimsby Borough Police Court, on November 24, Mark Neal, Victoria Street, Grimsby, was summoned, at the instance of the Supervisor of Inland Revenue, for selling beer without a licence. It was stated that the defendant, who called his premises "The Wise Man's Public-house," sold to an Excise officer some herb-beer which contained upwards of 73 per cent. of proof spirit, and in some sarsaparilla likewise purchased the amount of proof spirit was 36 per cent., 2 per cent. being the maximum allowance. Defendant said he had put sugar into the drinks to take away the bitter taste, and it must have fermented. The Magistrates fined the defendant three guineas, including costs.

Unlicensed Hawking.

At the West Riding Police Court, on November 25 Richard Lane, Halifax, was summoned for having acted as a pedlar without a licence. Defendant called at various houses offering scents and lavender for sale, and on being asked by a police-constable to produce his pedlar's certificate, defendant stated that he did not require one as he was acting for a Bradford firm of perfumers. A fine of 5*s.*, without costs, was imposed.

Charges of Stealing from Chemists.

The business premises of Mr. A. Morris, chemist and druggist, Ollerton, were entered by burglars on the night of November 23. An entrance was effected by a square of glass over the door being removed, thus enabling the key to be reached. A sum of 25*l.* in cash was stolen.

A youth named Pritchard was charged at Ilkestone Police Court on November 24 with stealing a syringe and two syphons of soda-water. Accused had been sent by his master to a chemist at Heanor for the articles mentioned. After obtaining them he ran away with the goods, and was arrested at Leicester. A fine of 10*s.*, with 2*l.*s. costs, was imposed, or, in default, fourteen days' hard labour.

At Bath Police Court, on November 23, Alexander Manzies, alias John Stuart, was charged with stealing from 43 Walcot Street, on November 25, a box containing Zox powders and other goods, value 13*s.*, the property of Mr. E. Wookey. Prisoner went into prosecutor's shop and asked for a light. Whilst lighting his pipe he put a parcel down on the counter, and when he picked it up he also took a box containing the Zox powders and the other goods. As he was going out he dropped the box, however, and was arrested. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sent to gaol for fourteen days, with hard labour.

At Cardiff on Tuesday two men, named Jarvis and Smith, were charged with attempting to steal, by means of a trick, the sum of 9*s.* 11*d.* from Mr. D. Thomas, chemist, Penarth Road.

Jarvis went into the shop and asked for 1 oz. of magnesia, tendering half a sovereign in payment. Mr. Thomas gave him 9*s.* 11*d.* change, upon which the prisoner remarked, "Oh, I thought I gave you a sixpence," and then asked for the half-sovereign bank, keeping the change in front of him all the time. Mr. Thomas refused to return the half-sovereign until the change was restored. Smith, the other prisoner, then entered the shop and received the packet of magnesia, and then went out. Jarvis followed suit, and the upon complainant gave information to the police, who arrested the prisoners. There was a further charge against the men, preferred by a woman named Pugsley, and prisoners were sent for trial to the Quarter Sessions.

At Bow Street, on November 25, John Wade (40) was charged with stealing a tin of ointment, value 1*s.* 11*d.*, and John Connor (33) a porter, was charged with feloniously receiving it. Mr. Muskett, for the prosecution, stated that Wade was head-counterpane in the drug-department at the Civil Service Supply Association, and had been employed there for many years, receiving a salary of 42*s.* a week. Of late there had been numerous losses from the drug-department, and observation was kept on Wade. Connor was seen to go to the counter and purchase from Wade a bottle of scent, for which he paid 4½*d.* to the cashier. With the scent Wade handed to him a tin of ointment, which was not paid for. When arrested the tin of ointment, *minus* the paper cover, was found in Connor's pocket. On the previous day Wade was seen to give Connor a bottle of citrate of magnesia and a cake of soap, for which he had not paid. Evidence in support of Mr. Muskett's statement having been given, the prisoners were remanded.

Chemists as Defendants.

A foreigner, who gave his name as Charles Miller and described himself as a chemist, was, on November 25, charged at Marylebone Police Court with committing two burglaries. Having heard the evidence, Mr. Curtis-Bennett committed the prisoner for trial.

At the Ystrad Police Court, on November 28, David Rees, chemist, Ystrad, Rhondda, was summoned to show cause why he should not contribute towards the support of the male child of Rosina White, of which he was the putative father. The complainant had been in the employ of the defendant as housekeeper, and defendant stated that his wife gave complainant notice to leave because she was unable to perform her household duties. He denied the allegations of the plaintiff; but, after hearing the evidence, the Bench ordered defendant to pay 3*s.* 6*d.* per week. The defendant at once gave notice of appeal.

On November 23 William Sidney Davis, described as a chemist, but whose name does not appear on the register, was charged at the Guildhall with committing an unprovoked assault upon a labourer named Rennett, in a third-class carriage on the Great Eastern Railway. Prosecutor (whose head was enveloped in surgical bandages) was a passenger in the same carriage with prisoner, who commenced to use very foul and obscene language in the presence of several lady-passengers. Prosecutor remonstrated with him, whereupon the accused struck him a violent blow and knocked his head through the window. While the prosecutor was giving evidence accused, who was standing in front of the dock, fell in a fit, and a doctor, who examined him, stated that prisoner was not in a fit condition to answer the charge that day. A remand was granted, prisoner being allowed out on bail. On November 30 the case was resumed. Mr. Nettlehip, from the Solicitor's Department at Liverpool Street Station, said from what had transpired since Monday he could no longer prosecute on behalf of the G. E. R. Company. A lady, it appears, was in court who was prepared to say that it was the prosecutor who struck the first blow, that he used bad language. It was on the remonstrance of Davis that Rennett struck out and defendant retaliated. After consultation, it was announced that Davis had compensated Rennett by giving him 5*l.* The defendant was then discharged.

The Window-smasher.

The prisoner John McKenzie, who pitched his boot through the shop-window of Messrs. Glyn & Co., chemists, East India

Dock Road, was brought up for sentence at Clerkenwell County Sessions on November 26. He was given six months' with hard labour.

Football.

South London School of Pharmacy v. Westminster College of Pharmacy.—Played at Shepherd's Bush on November 26, and resulted in a win for the South Londoners by 3 goals to 1.

A Political Pharmacist.

Mr. Gwilym Evans, of Llanelly, once a member of the Pharmaceutical Council, was a witness in an action heard at Swansea the other day, in which the proprietors of the *Llanelly Mercury* claimed 1,000*l.* damages from the proprietor of the *Llanelly Guardian* for an alleged defamatory libel published in regard to their paper. The allegation was that because Mr. Gwilym Evans, who at the time of the alleged libel was a candidate for the representation of the Carmarthen Boroughs, refused to advance 500*l.* in support of the plaintiffs' paper, they turned round and abused him:—

The rulers of the planet [Mercury], sneered the *Guardian*, were called together by the chancellor of the exchequer, who informed them that . . . their coffers and banking-accounts were getting very low indeed. They were further told that if they intended to remain any longer a power in the firmament they would have either to beg, borrow, or steal. After a lengthy discussion one of the quartette slapped his thigh and exclaimed, "I have it! What born fools we are not to have thought of it before! Why, here is Mars, our chosen knight [Mr. Gwilym Evans], whom we have landed. . . . You are well aware how rich and powerful he has grown on that wonderful bitter-sweet remedy quinine. Why not go and ask him for a thousand or two?" And so it was settled, only they altered their demand to a modest five hundred. . . . When Mars came to be interviewed, "What," he said, "sink 500*l.* in your rotten old concern? Not me; not a brass farden." So it came to pass that those who were loudest in their shouts of "Vive le Roi!" when they found the king would not stump up, shout now even with greater energy, "Long live the Republic!"

Mr. Gwilym Evans was called to state what actually transpired. It appeared that he was waited upon by some of the *Mercury* directors and asked to support their paper. He offered to invest 100*l.* in debentures. The Court found for the plaintiffs, with 1*l.* damages, and ordered each party to pay their own costs.

Selling a Poison.

At Chelsea, on Wednesday, Mr. Drew held an inquest on a child named Ives, aged 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ years. On Saturday last the child was sick, and the mother sent another child to a chemist for a powder. The mother said she went to the chemist the same night and saw the assistant. She told him the other powder had done the child no good, and asked if she should give another. The assistant said not till the next day. On Sunday the child became worse. A doctor was sent for, but the child died before his arrival. She paid 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* for the powder. The chemist did not suggest a doctor.

Thomas Davis, chemist and druggist, of 485 King's Road, in reply to the Coroner, said he had no recollection of a child coming for a powder. He did not see Mrs. Ives. His assistant served her. Coroner: He ought to have been here. Witness: He does not recollect anything about it. Coroner: Is he qualified?—No, sir. Coroner: Do you mean to say you sanctioned an unqualified assistant prescribing for a person he had never seen?—He did not prescribe. He served in the usual way. But he was prescribing?—They asked for a cooling-powder. Coroner: I thought you did not remember anything about it. They did not ask for a cooling-powder, or anything definite beyond a powder. It is not as if they asked for ipecacuanha-wine or some specific thing. Witness: It was sold in the usual way, as I do every hour in the day.

Coroner: You simply sold a powder. The child may have suffered from heart-disease or have had an affection of the brain or kidney-disease. He gives a powder, and probably prevents a doctor being called in. What is the powder composed of?—Calomel and sugar. Nothing was said as to the child being constipated or having diarrhoea?—Not to my knowledge. What does your assistant know of the treatment of disease?—He is an experienced assistant. Has he had any training in medicine?—He is qualified by years of practice.

The Coroner: You mean in the dispensing of drugs, not in the diagnosis of diseases—no more than you yourself have.

Dr. MacNaughten said the death was due to convulsions following pneumonia and extravasation of blood on the brain. He tested the contents of the stomach for antimony and mercury, but found no poison.

The Coroner: Why did you test for that?—I had heard told the child had been given a powder. Supposing you had attended this case a few days earlier, could you have done anything for it?—I believe I could. What do you say to giving a child a powder containing a form of mercury?—It was not a proper thing to give, although I found, from the condition of the bowels, that it required an opening medicine. I should have given a simple remedy, such as castor oil. Do you think the mercury accelerated the death?—I should not like to say that. What is your opinion of prescribing in this lax way? It is a dangerous thing to do!—Well, sir, it is a very difficult thing for the chemist. I have experienced the difficulty myself.

The Coroner: I quite appreciate the difficulty.

Dr. MacNaughten: It is not right, and yet it is difficult for the chemist when a person comes for a powder for a simple ailment. Still, I have known cases where chemists have advised a doctor, and the person has not gone.

The Coroner: But this powder, it appears, is sold for any or every disease. It is a general powder given in any case. It is not a wise thing to do?—No, sir. You are satisfied that the calomel had nothing to do with the death?—I am quite satisfied about that.

The Coroner said, if the doctor had said the death was accelerated by the powder, it would have been a serious matter. He could not understand a chemist's unqualified assistant, who knew nothing about the treatment of disease, prescribing in this way. It was a reckless thing to do, and all the more serious because it delayed the calling in of a doctor.

The jury, having returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence,

The Coroner, addressing Mr. Davis, told him he knew the difficulty a chemist experienced, but the law on the subject was very plain. In prescribing in that way, he was acting as an apothecary and bringing himself under the Act. He had prescribed and taken payment. He (the Coroner) advised him to be very careful, because, as a sensible man, he must see that a chemist was incapable of treating disease, the principal danger of which was the delay caused, most people waiting to see the effect of the powder before calling in a doctor. He also at the same time might be prescribing the wrong thing, as in this case. Fortunately the death was not accelerated by this treatment.

Mr. Davis, in reply, said he did not think he had prescribed.

The Coroner said that, supposing he had given opium in a case of pneumonia, it might have proved fatal.

Mr. Davis: Steedman's powders are given to children every hour of the day, and they contain antimony as well as opium, but because they bear the Government stamp nothing is said about them. [The statement as to the composition of Steedman's powders was the witness's, and is at least doubtful.

The Coroner: I think it would be a good thing if you were to read the Act on the subject. That would make it perfectly clear to you. The inquiry then terminated.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Want a Pasteur Institute.

At a meeting of the South Dublin Guardians on November 24 the question of the Pasteur treatment for rabies was discussed. Surprise was expressed that the medical men of Ireland had not long since put the Pasteur system of curing hydrophobia into operation either in the College of Surgeons or the College of Physicians. It was considered that the ratepayers were entitled to know the reason why. The Chairman said he would communicate with the Colleges and let the Guardians have the required explanation when he got it.

The Chemist's Boy's Love-affair.

In the Dublin Police Court last week Patrick Martin, a boy employed in Messrs. Hamilton, Long & Co.'s pharmacy, Lower Sackville Street, was charged with receiving three silk handkerchiefs knowing them to have been stolen. Martin, who was also a programme-seller in the Queen's Theatre, had made the acquaintance in the gallery of a girl named Travers, aged 13. They "kept company," and the handkerchiefs were given by the girl to Martin as a "love-token," she having stolen them from different people. Martin was ordered to be bound over in *Sl.* to be a better boy in future, and the girl was sent to a reformatory for five years.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

GLYCERIN-MANUFACTURE.—The Committee of Arts and Manufactures has recently granted a licence to the International Syndicate of Glycerin-producers to import raw glycerin into France for the purpose of refining, and that the refiners' factories should not be under inspection. They, however, decline the Syndicate's suggestion that drawback-allowance should be made in respect to waste in manufacture.

OBITUARY.—The death is announced, at Grasse, of M. Jacques Passy, who attracted attention some time ago by his interesting researches on the chemistry of perfumes as regards their composition and physiological action. He was a chemist of promise, and one of the leading assistants of M. Alfred Binet, the director of the laboratory of psychological physiology at the Paris Sorbonne. He was a son of M. F. Passy, the eminent French economist.

THE TREATMENT OF ANEURISMS by subcutaneous injections of gelatin was referred to by Dr. Huchard at the last meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine. This is a subject he has studied for some time, and he appears satisfied that the treatment can be applied with satisfactory results, through great care is required in making the injections. The theory is that the gelatin coagulates the contents of the aneurismal bag, and thus prevents the rupture of the sides of the artery.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION.—At the meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences this week, a letter was read from Lord Lister, as President of the Royal Society, London, asking for an expression of opinion regarding the feasibility of creating, amongst the scientific bodies of the Great Powers, a kind of association for mutual research in the solution of one or more of the great scientific problems. The Academy decided to go into the question next week in committee.

THE BIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, or "Grand Model Biological Institute," as it is called here, is to be erected with as little delay as possible, in order that it may be inaugurated in time for the 1900 Exhibition. The plans prepared by M. Brébant, architect of the Pasteur Institute, are now approved. The new laboratory is to be an annex of the Pasteur Institute, and will be built opposite it in the rue Dutot, Paris. The ground it will occupy is the gift of a lady, and the donation of 80 000*l.* by Baroness Hirsch will meet the cost of building and fitting, and will leave something for the maintenance of the new Institute.

A PARISIAN SCANDAL.—The illness of M. Bianchini, the theatrical scene-painter, several months ago at St. Germain, under somewhat mysterious circumstances, seems likely to take the proportions of a sensational scandal. His malady is supposed to have been caused by the addition of atropine to his food, and during searches made by the police at the time of the illness a bottle of the drug was found amongst the effects of his wife. The matter remained in abeyance some time, but Mme. Bianchini was arrested last Saturday morning on the charge of attempting to poison her husband. The police are now trying to trace the pharmacist who supplied the atropine.

FRENCH SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY had all re-assembled before November closed, and the students are now pretty

well settled down for the winter term. At the Montpellier School the recent death of Professor Gay has left a sense of mourning not easily thrown off, though the classes are as well attended as usual. At the Paris School the fourth-year students who aspire to the superior diploma are allowed special facilities for working in the laboratories and promoting their studies. At Bordeaux the pharmaceutical students have petitioned the authorities because none of their number are admitted to work in the hospitals there, as is the case in most of the other leading French towns. They are of opinion that the chief pharmacists and their assistants are not in sufficient numbers at the hospitals, while those who are there are occupied more with analyses than with the control of medicines delivered to patients.

THE STORY OF CHEMICAL DISCOVERY.—A "Retrospective Museum of the History of Chemistry" is being organised to figure in the Paris Exhibition of 1900. It will comprise objects relative to scientific discoveries and industrial improvements—in fact, everything that can clearly show the successive progress accomplished in the chemical industry and the importance of the discoveries made by French savants. Amongst the objects indicated as admissible are laboratory-apparatus, reports on discoveries, portraits of inventors, savants, and manufacturers, descriptions of processes, products obtained by inventors or in scientific laboratories, drawings, plans, models in relief, &c. Industrial museums, faculties, schools, manufacturers, and private individuals are invited to send a list of articles they may be willing to loan.

Colonial and Foreign News.

BELGIAN EXCISE-DUTIES.—A despatch, dated October 28, has been received at the Foreign Office from H. M. Minister at Brussels, enclosing copies of a decree, dated October 22, extending the relief from excise-duty granted to alcohols utilised in the manufacture of fulminate of mercury, in the preparation of pharmaceutical products, and in the manufacture of imitation leathers, from 64*l.* to 90*l.* per hectolitre of alcohol.

STUDENTS AT PHILADELPHIA.—There are 550 pharmaceutical students on the register of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. This college was instituted in 1841, and since its inception has numbered among its faculty such men as Drs. G. B. Wood, Franklin Bache, and J. M. Maisch, all at one time or another editors of the *United States Dispensatory*, and Mr. Edward Parrish, author of "Theory and Practice of Pharmacy," one of the American pharmaceutical classics.

BUSINESS CHANGES.—Messrs. Lanman & Kemp, of New York, have lately opened a branch for the manufacture of their Florida-water in Rio. They have been compelled to do this in consequence of the high duties, which have not only decreased importations, but have encouraged the manufacture of imitations.—Dr. George Hay, L.C.M.C., of Colombo, intends to establish a dispensary at Kandy, under the control of Mr. H. Ashley, late lecturer on pharmacy at the Medical College, Colombo.

CUBA'S NEW TARIFF.—A report dealing with a new tariff for Cuba has been submitted to the United States Government, and is likely to take effect shortly. It is proposed to reduce all duties about 60 per cent. below the old Spanish rates; it has not, however, been thought advisable to change the weights and measures from the metric system, though the U.S. currency is to be substituted for the Spanish pesos. Duties on pharmaceutical and chemical goods, the importation of which was valued at \$2 166,415 in 1896, are to be reduced by 53.7 per cent. The value of the imports of chemicals and pharmaceutical products in 1896 was \$2,166,415.

THE CANADIAN PATENT LAW prohibits the importation into Canada of goods protected by Canadian patents. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. have secured letters patent for processes and apparatus in connection with the manufacture of suppositories in Canada, and the introduction of these goods into the Dominion has been prohibited accordingly. They have, therefore, appointed Charles E.

Scarff, of 2262 St. Catherine Street, Montreal, sole licensee for the manufacture in the Dominion of suppositories made under these patents. English wholesale houses who may receive an order from Canada for B. W. & Co's patent suppositories should note this, and should decline to supply them, as the discovery of the consignment by the Customs authorities would subject the importer to liability to a fine, and confiscation of the goods.

FILLING "APOLLINARIS" BOTTLES—A Canadian dealer has been convicted of unlawfully selling and having in his possession for sale goods to which a false trade-description—namely, "Apollinaris"—was applied. The actual offence of which he was accused was that of refilling Apollinaris bottles bearing genuine labels with the intent that the same should be taken to contain genuine Apollinaris.

NEW PATENT LAW IN AUSTRIA.—The new law which comes into force in Austria on January 1, 1899, is similar to the German Patent Law. Special attention is given to the subject of patent agencies, which are to be registered and under the jurisdiction of the Patent Office. Facilities will be afforded to inventors whose means are limited. Patents granted before January 1, 1899, will be dealt with according to the old law, but it is open to the patentee to modify his invention in order to bring it under the new regulations. The change may be made without charge up to January 1, 1900, but priority, length of duration, and payments of fees will, however, be calculated from the original date of application or grant.

PHARMACY IN THE TRANSVAAL.—The Johannesburg *Star* again deals with the sale-of-poisons question, and quotes the *C. & D.* ("an official organ of pharmacy which has a world-wide circulation"—thus the *Star*) in support of its movement for reform. It concludes by advising Johannesburgians. "Until," says our contemporary, "the Government displays some inclination to deal with the legislation affecting doctors and druggists in a rational and capable manner, the public can steer comparatively clear of the risk of being accidentally poisoned, through the ignorance of dispensers who possess Pretoria diplomas, by only patronising establishments where properly qualified chemists are in charge." This practically means that the public should patronise chiefly those who hold British qualifications.

THE MELBOURNE ATROPINE-MISTAKE—An action was brought by the widow of the late Dr. S. I. Williams, who died from the effects of a hypodermic injection administered by himself, and which was alleged to have been atropine instead of morphine. The widow claimed 3,000*l.* damages from Mr. J. Christopher, the chemist who supplied the injection, but the jury returned a verdict for the defendant. The Judge, in summing up, said that negligence was admitted, but it had not been proved either by the medical or analytical evidence that death was due to atropine-poisoning. Deceased was a confirmed morphia-maniac, and was also in the habit of injecting cocaine, and the medical evidence showed that the *post-mortem* appearances were consistent with cocaine-poisoning.

ARTIFICIAL MINERAL WATERS IN HUNGARY—The Hungarian Minister of the Interior has issued a new ordinance, according to which licences to manufacture artificial mineral waters are now granted only to chemists or druggists holding diplomas. The regulations state that the names of domestic or foreign natural mineral waters may not be made use of. It is also forbidden to use the same bottles, jars, capsules, corks, stamps, or trade-marks for artificial mineral waters as for natural mineral waters of similar composition; and the word "artificial" must be marked in large letters on all vessels containing artificial mineral water. The name and place of the manufacturer are to be plainly written on the label. These regulations are enforceable by fine, and, in case of repetition, by fine and imprisonment. In connection with this ordinance, it may be pointed out that mineral waters form one of the principal articles of export from Budapest, the brands now exported being "Hunyádi János," "Apenta," and "Francis Joseph" aperient waters, from Budapest; the "Lajos" aperient water, from Komárom (Komorn); and the "Salvator" lithia water, from Heperjes (Eperjes).

Festivities.

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

Mr. Watson Will last Saturday entertained his students to dinner in the Holborn Restaurant, and with some past students and personal friends the company numbered nearly 240. Dr.

Fredk. B. Power, director of the Wellcome Research Laboratories, was the Chairman of the evening. Amongst those supporting him were Mr. John W. Bowen, Mr. Herbert S. Collins, Bailie Foreman (Forfar), Mr. Patrick Gardiner, Dr. Hooper A. D. Jowett, Mr. J. Melvin Lowson, M.A., B.Sc. (University Tutorial College), Dr. S. R. Lovett, Dr. W. Harrison



DR. F. B. POWER

Marlin'ale, Mr. Thomas Mason (St. Martin's Free Library), Mr. J. Gordon Nicholson (Edinburgh), Captain David Peters, Mr. W. Prior Robinson, Mr. Tom W. Robson, Mr. Anthony Tate (Johannesburg), Mr. George S. Taylor (Pharmaceutical Board of Examiners), Mr. Thomas Tyrer, and Mr. W. Lloyd Williams. There were seven spur-tables at which the school secretary, demonstrators, and senior students presided. After dinner the Chairman gave the toast of "The Queen" in a pretty little speech, the American strain of it adding to the enthusiasm; and when the toast was honoured and Mr. Watson Will rose to give "Mr. McKinley, the President of the United States" (in compliment to the Chairman), he was received with cheering enough to serve Mr. McKinley and himself, and the company received "Yankee Doodle" as to the manner born. In giving the "Metropolitan College of Pharmacy," Dr. Power spoke of

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY

saying that, in contrasting the conditions existing fifty years ago with those of the present day, one could not fail to be impressed with the marvellous development which had taken place. Sir Norman Lockyer, in a recent address at the Royal College of Science, mentioned that in the late fifties a senior wrangler came to London from Cambridge expressly to study crystals, prisms, and the like in the opticians' windows. (Laughter.) Of laboratories there were none; of science-teaching in the schools there was none; there was no organisation for training science-teachers. Very few chemists were employed in chemical-works. There were a few so-called chemists at bricklayers' wages—not much inducement to study chemistry, even if there had been practical laboratories where it could have been properly learnt. The Prince Consort, in 1845, gave the first impetus to higher scientific education by the foundation of the College of Chemistry, under the direction of Professor Hofmann; the School of Mines was established in 1851, and in the following year, in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament, her Majesty mentioned that the advancement of the fine arts and of practical science was worthy the attention of her legislators, and following upon this suggestion the Science and Art Department was founded in 1853. The College of Science and the School of Mines were amalgamated to form the Royal College of Science, over which at this time the distinguished teacher of chemistry (Professor Tilder), who comes from the rank of pharmacy, presides. In the scientific developments of our time pharmacists have performed an important part. In a system of technical education, such as that of pharmacy, recognition should no doubt be taken of the changes constantly taking place, not only through the advancement of pure science, but in the expansion of old or in the

creation of new industries based upon applied science, for by these evolutionary processes the practice of the pharmaceutical art, as well as commercial methods, is more or less directly affected. The influence of these industrial developments is apparent in every country, and those pharmacists will be the most successful who regard the altered conditions produced thereby as inevitable, and who are capable of judiciously adapting themselves to them. (Applause.) Dr. Power then referred to the conditions of pharmacy and pharmaceutical education in the United States within his own experience, and stated how the proving of competent skill and knowledge had there become universal within the past thirty years. From this he passed on to a consideration of Pharmacopoeias and exclusion of chemical manufacturing processes from them, with co-relative greater attention given to the testing of chemicals. This latter change, he said, shifted the sphere of the pharmacist's activity from the manufacturer to that of the analyst, and involved a greater breadth of chemical knowledge and skill. Pharmacy to-day might be in a state of transition, but it was none the less true that its security would continue to rest on thorough education in those branches of science which its practice involves; for whatever may be the protection afforded by the State, success will always be largely dependent upon, and proportional to, individual ability and effort. In such fields as bacteriology, sanitation, and hygiene, he thought the pharmacist by his education was a fit student, and that in such fields there was abundant scope for appreciative and profitable labour. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Watson Will, in the course of his reply, advocated the claims of the Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund, suggesting that the expenses of the approaching election might be saved by withdrawing two candidates until next year, and dividing the expenses between them.

Dr. Power then presented certificates and medals to the successful students of the past session. In each of the three terms bronze medals are awarded to those who are best in each subject, and silver medals to those who take the highest aggregate in all subjects. The following are the names of those who obtained the medals:—

SILVER MEDALS.—Messrs. John Stovin, C. T. Johnson, and J. McRostie.

BRONZE MEDALS.—*Chemistry*.—Messrs. A. E. King, T. T. Dolman, and S. C. Redman. *Pharmacognosy*.—Messrs. A. E. King, S. M. Collins, and H. H. Maidment. *Botany*.—Messrs. H. Pymon, N. J. F. le Dain, and G. M. Perkins. *Pharmacy, Posology, and Poison Laws*.—Messrs. Sidney Robertson (twice) and J. Rawling. *Dispensing*.—Messrs. G. E. Pearmund, H. J. Kluge, H. Waldby, W. O. Davies, and F. E. Holborow.

The next toast was "The Demonstrators," given by Dr. W. H. Martindale, who said, "Gentlemen, demonstrators are gentlemen who demonstrate, aren't they? (Yes!) Well, your demonstrators demonstrate, don't they? (Yes!) Well, I give the toast of the demonstrators." (Laughter and cheers.) Messrs. G. T. Branch, H. Lucas, and F. F. de Morgan replied. "The Students, Past and Present" were toasted by Mr. Mason in a witty speech, to which Mr. A. Tate and Mr. H. J. Kluge replied. Then Captain David Peters spoke for "The Visitors," and Mr. Tyrer proposed "The health of the Chairman," referring to his distinctions as an educator and investigator. His coming at the right time as an American scientist to this country to further the advance of pharmacy by scientific methods was an augury that the union of the English-speaking races was a reality rather than an ideal. Mr. Tyrer also referred to Dr. Power's association with Flückiger, and expressed his appreciation of the delightful and modest way in which he had given his thoughtful speech. Dr. Power replied in two sentences. During the evening Mr. Walter Churcher, Mr. W. L. Cockburn, Mr. Joseph Hay, and Mr. Dalgety Henderson entertained the company—the first with recitations, the others with songs—and the enjoyable proceedings finished with "Auld Lang Syne" in solos and chorus.

MUSIC AT BRADFORD.

The Bradford and District Chemists' Association had a musical evening at the County Restaurant, Bradford, on November 29. The entire arrangements were made by Mr. Hanson, and a capital programme was efficiently carried out. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Hanson at the close of the evening.

EXHIBITORS' DINNER.

The third annual dinner of the Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibitors' Association took place on November 26 at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W. Mr. F. Weiss took the chair, whilst Mr. E. J. Rebman (the Hon. Treasurer) and Mr. H. Blau (the Hon. Secretary) were at the head of the cross-tables. "Fun and Feed," which O. W. Holmes regarded as the true essentials of a feast, were both there—the "fun" taking the form of numerous humorous songs, and the well-known catering of the Café Royal making sure of the "feed."

After dinner, the Chairman, in proposing "The Association," said the exhibition held last May in the Queen's Hall was a thorough success, for whereas in 1897 the visitors numbered 4,500, this year they had increased to 5,500. The eighty-one exhibitors had expressed themselves as satisfied with the results from the point of business done, and the fact that five-eighths of the space was already bespoken for next year showed they were not likely to fall behind. Their Association was becoming recognised as a factor, and he might mention that the British Medical Association had sent their Secretary to consult them before arranging the museum at Edinburgh this year. The exhibitions, he thought, tended to establish good relations between the medical profession and the medical-supply trades. Next year, he concluded, the Association intend holding another exhibition during the last week in May, on the same lines; and as there was but little space left, intending exhibitors must apply at once, as they made a rule of giving precedence to old exhibitors and Association members.

Mr. A. Cooper replied, and said he regarded the Association as a strong healthy infant which stood every chance of maturing into manhood and old age. Medical men had expressed to him the pleasure and instruction it gave them to visit the exhibition and see the latest advances in medical science.

Mr. Voight then proposed "The President and Officers," dealing out compliments all round.

Mr. Rebman (the Hon. Treasurer) and Mr. Blau (the Hon. Secretary) replied. Mr. Rebman, speaking of himself as the mother of the Association, reviewed the progress since 1895, when the Association was formed, and said they had now a substantial balance in the bank, which augured well for the future.

Mr. Blau, in a speech brim full of quaintness, said that whereas they had at their first exhibition many doctors and one undertaker, at the last one there was an increased number of doctors and three undertakers. (Laughter.) Mr. Rebman had spoken of himself as the mother of the Association, and he supposed he must fill the rôle of the *enfant terrible*. (Laughter.) His occupation as Secretary had been, he thought, almost gone, as everything went off so smoothly and so free from rows. (Laughter.) Those who had not taken space for the next Queen's Hall exhibition had better hurry up, as there were now very few vacancies. (Hear, hear.)

"The Visitors" and "The Press" were then duly honoured and the members dispersed.

IN GLASGOW.

The annual dinner of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association was held in the Prince of Wales's Restaurant, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, on November 24. Mr. W. L. Currie (President) was in the chair, and the croupiers were Messrs. John McMillan, J. W. Sutherland, and James Moir. Covers were laid for fifty-three, and among the company were Professor Stockman, Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing (Edinburgh), Mr. Charles Kerr (Dundee), Mr. Robert McAdam, Mr. J. Rutherford Hill (Secretary of the Scottish Branch), Dr. Ebenezer Duncan, Mr. D. McLaren (Edinburgh), Dr. Mechan, Dr. A. Wood-Smith, Dr. A. M. Robertson, Mr. David Watson (Hon. Secretary), Mr. John Walker, &c. Apologies for absence were sent by Professor Sir William Gairdner, Mr. Walter Hills (London) (President of the Pharmaceutical Society), Mr. D. Storrar (Kirkcaldy), Mr. Johnston (Aberdeen), Mr. J. Bowman (Leith), Dr. Hector Cameron, Dr. A. L. Kelly, Dr. Alexander Miller, Dr. Love.

The speeches after dinner included a toast to "The Navy, Army, and Reserve Forces," proposed by Mr. Sutherland, and

responded for by Hon. Surgeon-Major Mechan; "The Medical Profession," which Mr. John Walker proposed, and to which Dr. Ebenezer Duncan replied. Dr. Duncan said in these days of specialisation it would be well if the two branches of medicine were entirely separated, so that they would have no doctor dispensing medicine, nor any chemist or druggist giving advice. He was pleased to see that in Glasgow, where at one time every medical practitioner kept a shop, the young men of the present day very seldom did. In the better parts of the town especially it was a rare thing for a young medical man to compete with pharmacists. At present the one great danger was that they might get into the hands of certain great manufacturers of drugs. There was a danger in medical men prescribing simply certain specialities sent out by these great firms, and it behoved their professors of *materia medica* in the Universities to teach their students to prescribe their own drugs, and to send their prescriptions to the very competent gentlemen who were around that table and elsewhere. He thought it was high time the pharmaceutical profession was put on a footing with the other professions, so that no one should be permitted to deal in dangerous remedies without showing a thorough acquaintance with their nature. He also advocated that pharmaceutical students should add zoology to the subjects of their preliminary studies.

Professor Stockman proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society," and after detailing some of the services which he considered the Society had rendered, said he had had personal experience of the courtesy and kindness of the staff. In Edinburgh they found a similar state of things on a smaller scale. There they had an obliging staff of one—(laughter)—but a host in himself. (Hear, hear.) Only those who had to ask favours from Mr. Hill knew with what alacrity and kindness he did all in his power to help one. The Professor commented on the advance of the standard of the Preliminary examination, which, he noted, had been raised to an equality with that of medical and other professions. That was a great advance. The higher the standard of general education in any profession, the greater would be the influence of that profession throughout the community.

Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing (Edinburgh) replied for the Society, and in the course of his speech referred at some length to the proceedings in connection with the recent opposition by Mr. Cross, member for the Camlachie Division of Glasgow, to the Pharmacy Amendment Bill and to the Government's Poisonous Substances Bill. This latter measure, he said, aimed to do what he should strongly oppose—the abolition of the personal qualification of the seller of poisons. He mentioned this because it was time they should set their house in order. He saw no reason why the Society should not now carry out its intention of some years ago and regulate how poisons should be stored in their pharmacies, and thus prevent a Government Department doing what he was sure would be the invidious task of appointing men to look after their pharmacies. They had learned from the Parliamentary work of the past Session that the House of Commons was by no means anxious to relax the laws regulating the sale of poisons. He was certain that any future legislation would tend rather towards strengthening than relaxing the conditions. They had learned, also, that their trade had a greater influence in the House of Commons than they had dreamed of.

Mr. J. Rutherford Hill proposed the toast of "The Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association," and spoke of the excellent influence upon pharmacy in the West of Scotland which the Association had exerted. As an outsider, he believed the change in the social atmosphere among pharmacists in Glasgow was one splendid piece of work the Association had accomplished. The Association had also accomplished good work in advancing the professional side of their craft. It seemed to him that the future of their craft depended largely on the cultivation of its professional side.

Mr. David Watson (the Hon. Secretary), who replied to the toast, said the membership of the Association at present was about 200. He hoped in future the ordinary meetings would be better attended than they had been. It had been mooted that their Association was too scientific an association, and that if it were made more of a trades' organisation the members could be got together readier. While he trusted that

the scientific side of the Association would not be educated quite agreed with the feeling that a more general interest in its proceedings would be aroused if it were more of a trade association, such as they had in Edinburgh.

Mr. Rutherford Hill afterwards presented to Mr. Martin Meldrum, assistant with Mr. John McMillan, the Kinninmont Prize, competed for annually by pharmaceutical students in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. This year's prize was a gold medal, which bore the following inscription:—"Kinninmont Prize. Instituted in 1894 by A. Kinninmont, Esq. Won by Martin Meldrum."

C.A.A. SMOKER.

November 24 was a wet and uncomfortable day, and yet the Chemists' Assistants' Association got together a good muster at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, W.C., on the occasion of their annual reunion, which this year took the shape of a smoking-concert.

Mr. R. A. Robinson, L.C.C., was in the chair, and Mr. F. A. Rogers occupied the vice-chair. The musical programme was an appropriate mingling of "high thoughts and generous aspirations." Among other items Mr. Fred. Wilson rattled off a song with the refrain, "You've got a long way to go" (alluding, probably, to the length of the programme). Mr. Charles King gave his quick-change sketch of a village schoolroom concert. Mr. Sam Wright sang of his "gal," who, he declared, was a "high-born lady."

There was a ten minutes' interval during the evening, when Mr. Gamble took the opportunity of proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He was glad to see the concert such a success, and to find they were not awed by the presence of a London County Councillor, whom he asked to notice that this was neither a Sunday concert nor one promoted for gain. (Laughter.)

Mr. R. A. Robinson acknowledged the hearty way they had thanked him, and was glad they did not think less of him because he was a member of the London County Council. That body was of vital importance to all Londoners, and in allusion to the question of Sunday concerts, which was to be discussed on the morrow, said his opinion was that healthy recreation and music cannot possibly do any harm. He thought assistants of the present day were better off than they were when he was an assistant, but still the hours of labour were very trying. If bankers could get through their important transactions in the few hours they did, he could not see why chemists should not, and hoped to see improvements in that respect before long.

Mr. Frank A. Rogers also replied, and the programme was then proceeded with.

HEWLETT'S C.C. SUP AND SMOKE.

The first annual supper and smoking-concert of Hewlett's Cricket Club was held on Saturday evening, November 26 at Kohler's Restaurant, Wool Exchange, E.C. Upwards of fifty members were present. The chair was taken by Mr. E. J. Millard, F.C.S., and the vice-chair by Mr. E. J. Tucker. In proposing the toast of "Success to the Club," the Chairman referred to the successful season which they had had, considering it was their first. Out of twelve matches four were won, two drawn very much in their favour, and six lost. The promotion of a challenge shield amongst the drug-trade clubs could not fail to give fresh zest to the next season. A successful concert followed, violin solos by Mr. H. Gillard, songs by Messrs. T. B. Fickling, Street, and Chance, a pianoforte solo by Master Bertie Loosley, and comic songs by Messrs. E. Thompson and C. Charlesby being warmly applauded.

ALLENBURY'S CRICKET CLUB.

This club had organised a Bohemian concert, which came off very successfully, on Thursday evening, November 24, at the Falstaff Hotel, Eastcheap, City, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. C. Moss-Millar. An attractive programme was rendered by the following artistes:—Miss A. Wilmot-Briggs, Miss F. Allin, Messrs. W. Gunn, J. Netherway, J. M. Sillitoe, and Cyril Newman. Perhaps the most interesting item of the evening was the cornet solo by Miss Beatrice Pettitt. The humorous portion was safe in the hands of such well-known artistes as Mr. Fred Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Owen Way, whilst Mr. Arthur Marriott, with the assistance of Mr. F. Capel Hanbury, caused much amusement with a clever sleight-of-hand entertainment.

Legal Reports.

The Cost of Manufacturing Saccharin.

IN the Court of Appeal, composed of Lords Justices A. L. Smith, Rigby, and Collins, on Nov. 23, the case of *Fahlberg v. Wilson, Salaman & Co. (Limited)* came up.

This action was brought by Constantin Falberg and Gustav List, of Magdeburg, Germany, claiming 12,000*l.* damages for alleged breach of an agreement to employ the plaintiff Constantin Fahlberg as chief chemist on the formation of the defendants' company, who were manufacturers of and dealers in saccharin, with offices in Victoria Street, London. In answer to the claim the defendants set up a counterclaim that under the agreement the defendants purchased patents from the plaintiffs for manufacturing saccharin for 50,000*l.*, and there was a clause that plaintiffs should supply defendants, until they were in a position to commence manufacturing themselves, with such saccharin as they might require, at an agreed price of 40*m.* per kilo. for pure saccharin, and 60*m.* for refined, and should any improvements in manufacture or reduction in cost of raw material be made, the price to defendants should be correspondingly reduced. Defendants counterclaimed for some 40,000*l.*, alleging that they had been charged sums in excess of the cost of manufacturing saccharin, and, secondly, they said they were induced to enter into the contract by false representation that the prices of 40*m.* and 60*m.* were the cost-prices. The defendants obtained an order from Master Archibald that the plaintiffs should make a further affidavit disclosing their books. Mr. Justice Lawrance overruled the order, and the defendants now appealed from the learned Judge.

Mr. Pollard, for the appellants, argued that the defendants could only get evidence from an inspection of the plaintiffs' books as to what had been the cost-price of the manufacture of saccharin. They had paid 30*m.* for saccharin from the plaintiffs when it was found they might have bought elsewhere for 18*m.* Already the plaintiffs had received 50,000*l.* from the defendants for their patents; they were under contract not to supply saccharin to any other firm in England but the defendants, and no harm could result from disclosure.

Mr. Reginald Bray, Q.C. (with him Mr. E. Bray), for the respondents, submitted that the order by Mr. Justice Lawrance was right. Every single book kept by the firm, except the sales-book, had some bearing upon the cost of manufacture, and it would be an enormous business to extract from these particulars of the varying cost of the manufacture of saccharin over six or seven years. If the case was to depend on the books, no jury could properly deal with it.

Lord Justice Smith delivered judgment allowing the appeal, observing that the defendants were entitled to disclosure at the present stage. These gentlemen from Germany came over here to launch a claim against the defendants for 12,000*l.*, and the defendants counterclaimed for 40,000*l.* Supposing that the plaintiffs lost on the claim and counterclaim, and an account was ordered from them, they would go off to Germany, and the defendants would never be able to get disclosure. It was not likely that they would stop here for the purpose of satisfying the defendants' litigation.

Lord Justice Rigby concurred, remarking that if the Court did not order discovery before the jury's verdict, they might be doing so at a time when the order could not be made effectual.

Accordingly the order by Mr. Justice Lawrance was overruled, and the appeal allowed, with costs.

Colman's Mustard.

IN the Chancery Division, on November 25, before Mr. Justice Romer, a motion for an injunction on behalf of Messrs. J. & J. Colman was made to restrain Brown's Stores, Southampton and Cowes, from in any manner representing that any mustard not of the plaintiffs' manufacture was Colman's mustard, and from selling or supplying any such mustard as aforesaid in response to orders for Colman's mustard.

Mr. Waggett, for the defendant, said he submitted to a

perpetual injunction, or to an undertaking, and to pay the costs, and to treat the motion as the trial of the action.

Mr. Neville, Q.C., for the plaintiffs, said this was a case in which mustard packed up and stamped with the seller's name was supplied in answer to orders for Colman's mustard. Mr. Justice Romer made an order in the terms arranged.

The Sunlight Soap Trade-mark.

THE Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Chitty and Vaughan Williams on Saturday delivered their considered judgment in the case of *Lever Brothers v. Bedingfield*, which came before the Court of Appeal from a judgment of Mr. Justice Kekewich. His Lordship had granted an injunction against the defendant, who carries on business at Bristol, restraining him from so getting up his soap as to lead to the belief that it was of the plaintiffs' manufacture. Plaintiffs also sought an injunction with respect to the alleged infringement of trade-mark, but on this point the learned Judge had found in favour of the defendant. Both parties now appealed.

The Master of the Rolls said the word "Sunlight" alone was not the sole registered mark of the plaintiffs. If it were, the defendant's label had nothing that could be mistaken for it. So far the plaintiffs' label had not been infringed, but it was said that the defendant had taken their combination of devices and the arrangement of the spaces on their labels in such a way as might lead to one being mistaken for the other. His Lordship came to the conclusion, however, that the defendant's label was so different, when regarded as a whole, that the plaintiffs were not entitled to an injunction on the question of the infringement of their trade-mark. Then came the question of get-up, and, as regarded that, the dissimilarity between the two labels was so obvious that the difference rather than the resemblance struck the eye. The result was that defendant's appeal must be allowed and the injunction discharged, and plaintiffs must pay the costs of the appeal, including the costs of their own intervention by way of cross-appeal. As regarded the costs of the action, they could not overlook the fact that the defendant himself by his conduct provoked the litigation, and under the circumstances they would simply reverse the judgment appealed from, and order judgment to be entered for the defendant, but without costs of the action.

Lords Justices Chitty and Vaughan Williams concurred.

Fancy-soap Boxes.

IN the Chancery Division of the High Court, on November 26, before the Lord Chief Justice, a case came on for further consideration from the Warwickshire Assizes, held at Birmingham. The action was brought by Thomas Bishop, a fancy-box maker of Sparkbrook, Birmingham, to recover 118*l.* for lids supplied during the year 1897 for fancy boxes for soap. The defendant, Arthur Stevenson, trading as Stevenson & Sons, at Manchester, admitted the delivery of the lids, but alleged that they were defective; the lids, which contained small mirrors in the centre, being badly put on. In consequence of this the defendant alleged that he had to make allowances to his customers, and also suffered loss of profits. He, therefore, counterclaimed for 667*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*! When the case was before his Lordship at Birmingham, the questions in dispute were referred to an arbitrator to report to the Court. The arbitrator's report was now read, to the effect that the 20,000 box-lids supplied to the defendant previous to June, 1897, were not negligently made or improperly fastened on, but that the thirty gross supplied later were negligently and improperly made. Other lots of box-lids the arbitrator also found to be negligently made.

The Lord Chief Justice, after reading the award, remarked that it did not afford him much assistance. Counsel agreed to leave the matter in his Lordship's hands.

The Lord Chief Justice, on being informed that the arbitration lasted three days, and cost thirty guineas, exclaimed, "Good heavens!"—(laughter)—and in the course of his judgment said it was to be regretted that the defendant had been so ill-advised as to make such a monstrous counterclaim. Such items as 104*l.* for prospective loss of profits on

100 000 boxes, and 416*l.* on 500,000 boxes, were ridiculous. The defendant might as well have stuck on a couple more noughts when he was about it. (Laughter.) The defendant, however, was entitled to some allowance in respect of defective work, and he thought he should be doing him full justice, if not more than justice, if he allowed him 46*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* on his counterclaim. There would be judgment for the plaintiff on the claim for 118*l.* 14*s.*, with the general costs of the action, and for the defendant on the counterclaim for 46*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, with such costs as he was entitled to. The defendant would also have to pay the arbitrator's costs, including the costs of the award, but the other costs of the reference would have to be borne by each party.

Medicine-stamp Act.

AT Lambeth Police Court, on November 28, Frederick Allen, of Stockwell Road, appeared to answer four summonses for selling unstamped medicines liable to stamp-duty. The defendant pleaded guilty, and expressed regret that his carelessness, or the carelessness of those for whom he was responsible, should have occasioned these proceedings. It was mentioned that a year ago the defendant was fined for a similar offence. Penalties of 10*l.* and 2*l.* 4*s.* costs on the first summons, and 10*l.* and 2*s.* costs on each of the three other summonses, were imposed.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

HEAVY MAGNESIA.

AT Calne, on November 23, Mr. Cornelius Clark, chemist and druggist, was summoned for selling the heavy carbonate of magnesia when heavy magnesia was asked for.

In defence, Mr. Clark pointed out that the old preparation was known as heavy magnesia, the oxide being a more recent preparation. There was no intention to defraud, as heavy magnesia could not be had for the 4*l.* which was charged.

Mr. Oswell, who prosecuted, said there was no imputation of fraud; but chemists must learn to supply the drug that was asked for. He also stated that three other samples of drugs obtained at defendant's shop proved, upon analysis, to be genuine.

A fine of 6*l.* and 8*s.* costs was imposed.

County Court Cases.

THE TRAVELLER AND THE MAIL-CART.

AT Southwark County Court, before Judge Addison, Q.C., on November 24, Mr. Joseph A. Sergeant, a traveller in the employ of Messrs. Seabury & Johnson, manufacturing chemists, was sued by Messrs. W. J. Harris & Co. (Limited), Old Kent Road, for 11*s.*, amount alleged to be owing by the defendant for a mail-cart. Plaintiffs' representative said a lady, who apparently was Mrs. Sergeant, ordered a mail-cart at the shop. The price was 3*l.* 3*s.*, to be paid by instalments. She said her husband was away travelling, but she would get his signature to the usual form and send it on. This she did, and the cart was supplied to an address at Holborn. The instalments were regularly paid until a short time ago, and when application was made at Holborn for the 11*s.* balance, no one could be there found who knew anything of the matter.

Defendant denied that the signature was his, but admitted that it resembled his to some extent. Two years ago he knew two ladies, who he believed lived in Holborn, and who applied to him for a reference to enable them to obtain a piano. He signed a paper then, and now alleged that the signature on plaintiffs' order-form had been forged from that reference-form. After further evidence had been given, his Honour examined the alleged signatures of the defendant, together with another written in court, under a magnifying-glass, and gave it as his opinion that the signature on the plaintiffs' order-form was not genuine. Judgment for defendant, with costs.

Sulphuric-acid Machinery.

BEFORE Lords Justices A. L. Smith, Rigby, and Collins, in the Appeal Court, on Monday, Mr. Pickard applied, in the

action of Edward Pickard & Co. v. Webb, for leave to appeal from an order by Mr. Justice Mathew, directing the case to go to trial. Counsel said the defendant, Mr. Thomas George Webb, contracted to erect on plaintiffs' premises an apparatus for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, and the claim against him was for damages to the extent of 3,000*l.* or 4,000*l.*, because the apparatus would not do the work it was guaranteed to do. Three days before the date fixed for the trial a compromise was arranged between the parties, through their solicitors, and that settlement was made an order of the Court. Some five months later the defendant filed an affidavit stating that although he had agreed to certain terms, he did not agree to the terms as settled by the solicitors, and on his application Mr. Justice Mathew ordered the parties to go to trial. Against that order plaintiffs now desired to appeal, their case being that the compromise was binding.

Their Lordships refused the application.

Royal Baking Powder Co. v. Wright.

IN the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on Thursday (Dec. 1), before Mr. Justice Romer, Mr. Warming-ton, Q.C., appeared in support of a summons asking for further and better discovery of documents in this action, which is brought to restrain the defendants from passing off their Royal Baking Powder as that of the plaintiffs. The defendants had made discovery, but had covered up everything except the three words, "Royal Baking Powder," and in their affidavit said that there was nothing in the documents that would assist the plaintiffs in their case. Mr. Neville, Q.C., for the defendants, said there was no objection to his lordship seeing the documents, and mentioned that a part of the defence was that at the time the plaintiffs' baking powder was introduced into England, the defendants and their predecessors in business had for many years been selling in the United Kingdom baking powder of their own manufacture under the name of "Royal Baking Powder," and they had ever since continued to do so. Mr. Justice Romer, having looked at the accounts and travellers' books, said there was nothing in them that would in the least assist the plaintiffs, and therefore further discovery was unnecessary. Upon this no order was made, except that the costs be costs in the action, Mr. Neville saying he agreed to that, as they (the defendants) were going to win this case. (Laughter.)

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re C. W. FLOCK, Stevenage, Chemist and Druggist.

THE trustee under this failure has completed the realisation of the assets, and the balance available for dividend, after paying the necessary expenses and the preferential claims, will allow of a first and final dividend to the unsecured creditors of 11*½d.* in the pound.

Re JOHN JOSEPH LAWS, 14 Greyhound Lane, Streatham Common, Chemist and Druggist.

THE public examination of this bankrupt was held at the Wandsworth Bankruptcy Court on November 24. Mr. Timbrell appeared for the bankrupt. The statement of affairs disclosed liabilities 256*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* and assets estimated to produce 190*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, less preference claims 27*l.* 10*s.* Questioned by the Senior Official Receiver (Mr. A. Mackintosh), bankrupt said he had been in business since January, 1892. He had a capital of 300*l.*, given him by his father, which he had paid to the person from whom he purchased the business. Over 100*l.* of his present liabilities was incurred in 1895 and 1896. He did not try to sell his business. At the end of 1897 he owed 197*l.* He tried to obtain some employment, but continued trading and contracting debts. Mr. Mackintosh: You do not consider that was fair to your creditors, do you? Bankrupt said he expected to sell his business. He only knew of his insolvency three weeks before the receiving-order, when he found that the business could not be sold for 300*l.* He had not tried to sell it before then, but always considered it was worth 300*l.*

He had been sued for "small sums" for years. His turnover was 3/ per week. He considered he made 50 per cent. gross profit, and his rent, rates, and taxes amounted to 81/., which absorbed the whole of his profits. Mr. Mackintosh: That statement is quite consistent with your statement of affairs, but I find you have been borrowing money from 1896 I suppose you could not get on without? Bankrupt admitted that was so, and said he had been borrowing continually since then from friends, chiefly at 5 per cent. interest. He had a circular from a Mr. Dean; as a result he applied to him for a loan of 25/., which was granted, he to repay 40/ by instalments of 5/ per month. He did not calculate the rate of interest at the time, but he had done so since. He now found that "Mr. Dean" was Isaac Gordon, the well-known money-lender, who was scheduled as a creditor. He had not been extravagant, but the business had not paid, and to keep going he had to borrow. His books had been very badly kept, as he had so much to do. He was now employed as a manager, but had to give up the situation. He would, however, be able to secure another one if his examination was finished that day. In reply to his solicitor, bankrupt said he was quite sure it was not until three weeks before the receiving order that he knew of his insolvency. The Official Receiver: The business has been sold, and realised 120/. The solicitor said that was by a sale under the bankruptcy; had the debtor been able to sell by private treaty it would have realised differently—that but for the bankruptcy proceedings the goodwill could have been sold with the business, and more would have been obtained for it. Mr. Mackintosh: I should like to know what goodwill there can be in a business where the gross profits are absorbed by the rent, rates, and taxes. Bankrupt said the business would have been a good paying one with capital in it. The examination was adjourned until December 8.

Re JOHN HENRY NICHOLSON, Bury Street, Bloomsbury, Aural Surgeon, &c.

THIS debtor, who has practised as an aural surgeon at the above address, and has also been concerned in the promotion of chemical and other companies, in which connection he was known as Horace Wirton Bright, attended last Friday at the London Bankruptcy Court for public examination upon accounts showing liabilities, 689/ 5s. (unsecured, 337/ 5s.), and assets, 59/ 5s. In reply to Mr. Howell, Assistant-Receiver, the debtor said he had been interested in the promotion of four public companies. Among the number was A. T. Hale & Co. (Limited), registered in October, 1896, with a capital of 3000/., to acquire a chemical and printers' supplies business then being carried on at Adelaide Place, W.C. He had also assisted in the promotion or acted as director of other companies, and had drawn 5/ a week from them for his services. The Assistant-Receiver examined the debtor at some length regarding his fees, and eventually the examination was adjourned for three weeks for an account of them to be furnished.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

- Anderson, J., M.D., and Low, P. C., M.B., under the style of Anderson & Low, Tunbridge Wells, general medical practitioners.
- Bottomley, T., and Robinson, A. T., under the style of Bottomley & Robinson, Wyke, near Bradford, soap and colour makers.
- Caley, E. J., Caley, S. A., and Caley, F. W., under the style of A. J. Caley & Son, Norwich, mineral-water, chocolate, and cocoa manufacturers.
- Chapman, H., and Keep, J., under the styles of Henry Chapman & Son and Woolverton & Co., Tanner's Hill, Deptford, and Lewisham High Road, S.E., wine and spirit merchants and mineral-water manufacturers.
- Roberts, J., and Huskie, J., under the style of Roberts & Huskie, Chester, general medical practitioners.
- Rolls, G., and Watts, A. C., under the style of Jamieson & Co. and G. R. Thorogood & Co., Globe Road, Mile End, E., Middlesex, and Aberdeen, manufacturers of harness composition, &c.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

ADJUDICATION.

Graham, James, Newcastle-on-Tyne, grocer and druggist's traveller. late grocer and drysalter.

ORDERS MADE ON APPLICATIONS FOR DISCHARGE.

- Forster, John Clark (trading as Ferguson & Forster), Great Tower Street, E.C., Osborn Street, Whitechapel, E., and Buckland, near Reigate, wholesale spice-merchant and liquorice-importer—discharge suspended for two years, ending October 27, 1900.
- Thomas, Edward Hugh (adjudicated as E. H. Thomas), and Quick, Alfred (trading with A. C. Blackiston as E. H. Thomas & Co.), Weedington Road, Kentish Town, N.W., mineral-water manufacturers—discharge suspended until December 24, 1900. Edward Hugh Thomas and Alfred Quick to be discharged as from that date.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Chapman, Henry, 21 Copers Cope Road, Barkingham, and James Keep, 19 Manor Road, Brockley, trading at The Horse-shoe Bottling-stores, Tanner's Hill, Deptford, as "Henry Chapman & Son," and at 183 Lewisham High Road as "Woolverton & Co.," wine and spirit-merchants, bottlers, and mineral-water manufacturers. Dated, November 23; filed, November 25. Secured creditors, 340/ 0s 3/4; liabilities unsecured, 4501/ 12s 4d; estimated net assets, 2245/ 6s 10d. Absolute assignment of debtor's estate to one John Chapman, of 101 Leadenhall Street, City, agent, for a sum sufficient to pay the creditors a composition of 7s 6d in the pound within twenty-eight days from October 25, 1898. Among the creditors connected with the aerated-water business are the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Barnett & Fester, London	186	0	0
Bush, W. J., & Co. (Limited), London	69	0	0
Continental Bottle Company, London	75	0	0
Foreign Bottling Manufacturing Company, London	13	0	0
Glover, C. H., & Co., London	38	0	0
Kop's Brewery, London	25	0	0
London Carbonic-acid Gas Company, London	20	0	0
Riley Manufacturing Company, London	112	0	0
Rylands & Co. (Limited), Barnsley	24	0	0
Vallett, L., Liverpool	13	0	0

Laing, Joseph Lythall Leigh, 56 Victoria Street, and Hungerford Road, Crewe, chemist and druggist. Trustee, Henry W. Higgins, 12 Cheapside, Hanley, accountant. Dated, November 21; filed, November 23. Liabilities unsecured, 555/ 0s 5/4; estimated net assets, 200/. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Briggs, W., Crewe	15	0	0
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool	114	0	0
Homes Brothers, Manchester	31	0	0
Laing, Mrs., Crewe	228	0	0
London and North-Western Railway Company, Crewe	15	0	0
Oldfield, Pattinson & Co., Manchester	10	0	0

Marriages.

- ANGEL—NOTT.—On November 26, at Kingston-on-Thames Benjamin Angel, Trowbridge, to Rhoda Julia, daughter of the late Mr. H. J. Nott, chemist and druggist, Hampton Wick.
- MCDONALD—GASS.—At Whitehaven, on November 23, George Paterson McDonald, Castle Douglas, to Louisa, sister of Mr. H. Gass, wholesale and retail chemist, Whitehaven.
- ROECH—CHALMERS.—At Dundee, on November 25, by the Rev. J. Aitken, M.A., Alexander Thomson Roech, chemist and druggist, Dundee, to Sarah Ann, only daughter of the late Mr. D. P. Chalmers, Stromness.

Deaths.

- LUMSDEN.—At Aberdeen, on November 18, Mr. David Lumsden, chemist and druggist. Aged 81.
- SHORT.—At Bushey Heath, Herts, on November 24, Mr. Edward Curtis Short, chemist and druggist. Aged 51.

The Winter Session.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

At the fortnightly evening meeting of this Society, held on November 28, Dr. J. A. Walsh, M.C.P.S.I., presiding in the absence of the President, Dr. McWALTER read a paper on

THE PHARMACY OF THE ORGANOIDS.

He said an organ was a part which had a determinate function in the animal economy. By an organoid he meant a medicine which was supposed to fulfil the function of the organ from which it was prepared. The organs of most interest to therapeutics were those which modified the condition of the blood-stream by adding, subtracting, or otherwise influencing it. The problem for pharmacy was twofold—on the one hand, to isolate and present in active and agreeable forms these secretions or ferments on which the activity of the various organs depended, and, on the other, to investigate their nature and conditions of action. The theory of cellular pathology was dwelt upon by the doctor, who said the science of therapeutics must be grounded on the effects which certain medicines exercised on the blood-cells. Every blood-cell contained a nucleus, and the chief constituents of these nuclei were called nucliens. These nucliens were found to possess powerful therapeutic properties, and to have the power of stimulating an increase of the white blood-cells. They required for their solution a weak alkaline preparation, and it had been found by direct experiment that the bactericidal power of certain of the nucliens was due in a large measure to the carbonate of soda necessary to dissolve them. Nucliens were found to be useful in assisting the organisms to combat disease, and it behoved the pharmacist to help the physiological investigator by suggesting what solutions would give the substance the greatest efficacy. Dr. McWalter proceeded to criticise certain preparations of the Pharmacopœia. He claimed pepsin B.P. as an organoid, and pointed out that the suggested test in the Pharmacopœia was impracticable for ordinary purposes, and very liable to mislead unless strictly followed. The test laid down in the present B.P. required six hours' attention. It would be very erroneous to assume that because the test of the new Pharmacopœia required pepsin to dissolve fifty times as much albumen as did the old, the former was fifty times as strong. The fact was that acidulated water would dissolve white of egg without any pepsin if only it were left long enough at the proper temperature. Passing to the liquor pancreatis, it would be noted that there was no admonition to observe aseptic precautions. It was not stated whether the pancreas must be hot from the animal or otherwise, neither were any particulars as to the appearance of the liquor given. It had been suggested in the *C. & D.* by Mr. J. C. Umney that liquor pancreatis might be made by digesting 1 oz. of pancreatin in 1 pint of 20 per cent. alcohol, but there was a pancreatin on the market of which 1 gr. would peptonise more milk in half the time than twenty times the quantity of the liquor pancreatis. Mr. Umney gave the credit for the formula for liquor thyroïdin to Mr. White, a pharmacist to one of the London hospitals, and who had done much work on the subject; but Dr. Murray, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, appeared to regard it as his offspring. There were complaints that this preparation did not keep, but this was probably due to the proportion of carbohc acid being too small. Instead of the carbohc acid should be substituted a little common salt, which pharmaceutically should suggest itself as a solvent for the serum-globules and iodine compounds. Some discussion had recently been raised about testing for iodine in thyroid tablets. Some tablet-makers say that the ordinary test for iodine, consisting of the addition of a few drops of hydrochloric acid to the solution, and the subsequent agitation with chloroform, to which the iodine gave the characteristic violet tint, did not demonstrate iodine in their preparations, and it certainly was difficult to do so; but he had observed that if a tablet which contained iodine were subjected to the test, and the test-solution allowed to remain in the light for some hours, a very notable quantity of chlorine was evolved. This was apparently due to interaction of chloroform and iodine with formation of iodoform and chlorine. Glands should be

extracted with sterilised glycerin and a solution of common salt (5 per cent.) added, whilst, after filtering, the solution should be rendered aseptic by being subjected to a pressure of twenty atmospheres of CO₂. There was a very wide field of work open to the scientific pharmacist in examining the functions and properties of the various condiments used in medicine, and ascertaining what solvents would best extract their virtue; and the cardinal principles governing the pharmacy of the organoids called for special attention.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. SMITH said he did not pose as a specialist on the organoid. To be an adept in that science would, to his mind, suggest a preliminary visit to a slaughter-house. (Laughter.) He spoke of the activity of the thyroid glands as being due to iodine, and agreed with Dr. McWalter as to the inadequacy of the B.P. test for pepsin. He gave an account of a test which he himself applied, but it was not according to the B.P. formula.

Dr. WALSH said the paper suggested an important point—the necessity for the up-to-date and advanced pharmacist having a knowledge of histology and physiology. Without an acquaintance with these subjects it was very hard to keep abreast of the times. This pointed to the institution of a post-graduate course in pharmacy, and if time permitted the pharmacist to go beyond the Licence examination he would prove a valuable help to the physician. Medical men had very little time to devote to things outside their own immediate calling, and if the chemist could take up additional threads of knowledge he would not only be enhancing the esteem with which he is already regarded, but would be assuring his right position. He hoped that a research laboratory would be established by the Society in the near future.

Dr. McWALTER having replied to the speakers, and a vote of thanks having been passed, the proceeding terminated.

Society of Arts.

ON November 30 Mr. C. H. BOTHAMLEY gave a lecture on

PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPERS.

He said it was a noteworthy fact that, with the exception of ferrous oxalate and ferrous citro-oxalate, all the substances that have been found to be of any practical value as developers were carbon compounds, and, with one exception, derivatives of the same parent substance—benzene (C₆H₆). Pyrogallol was for some time the only carbon compound used as a developer for gelatino-bromide plates; but in 1880 Captain Abney found out the uses of quinol, whilst at the same time Eder and Toth recognised in catechol (pyrocatechin) strongly-marked developing-power. In 1887 Andresen introduced the sodium salt of α -amido- β -naphthol- β sulphonic acid as a developer under the name of eikonogen, but it seems to have given place to later novelties such as metol, paramidophenol, amidol, glycin, ortol, diamidoresorcin, diphenol, and diogin, to which might be added reducin, which, however, the lecturer thought was not on the English market. The large number of developers available is largely due to Hauff and Andresen, who systematically inquired into the developing-properties of a very large number of benzene and naphthalene derivatives. These investigations paved the way for the recognition of certain relations between the constitution of benzene derivatives and their developing-powers. All the benzene derivatives that are known to act as photographic developers, with one or two partial exceptions, contain hydroxyl or amido groups that have been substituted for hydrogen, and, moreover, contain at least two such groups, which may be either both hydroxyl, both amido, or one hydroxyl and one amido group. It is found also that the ortho and para derivatives are developers, but meta-derivatives have

NO DEVELOPING-POWER

if pure. When the hydrogen of the hydroxyl group or the amido group is replaced by an alkyl radicle important practical results are produced, and in the case of the amido group some of the products are already important developers. Methylorthoamidophenol is the chief constituent of ortol, whilst methylparamidophenol is Andresen's metol, and its homologue, methylpara-amidocresol, is Hauff's metol. The introduction of an alkyl group results in a substance more

soluble in water and of increased developing-power. Glycin is an apparent exception to this statement, but should more properly be regarded as a substance in which the hydrogen atom has been replaced by the hydroxyphenol group. Eder has divided developers into two groups—the first those which develop the image gradually, such as pyrogallol, catechol, and quinol; the second group those in which the image appears almost simultaneously, such as amidol, eikonogen, metol, and paramidophenol.

The lecturer proceeded to say that since the developing-power of the carbon compounds is traceable to the presence of hydroxyl and amido groups, it became a question of some interest whether these groups show developing-power when in the free state as hydrogen peroxide and hydrazine (diamide), and this interest extends to hydroxylene, which may be regarded as a compound of both groups. Plates were then shown which had been developed with

PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN

in strongly alkaline solution, and also with hydrazine and hydroxylamine. It should be noted, however, that in the case of peroxide of hydrogen the bubbles of oxygen evolved caused blistering of the gelatin, as also did the nitrogen liberated from hydroxylamine.

The lecturer went on to refer to the meaning of alkaline developers, and said that the minimum active alkalinity is that detectable by litmus, whilst the average working alkalinity is that appreciable to phenolphthalein. The drawback to the use of caustic alkalies in the developer is their tendency to produce fog—that is, reducing the unexposed silver bromide, instead of confining their attention to the exposed bromide. Eikonogen is unique among developers in being active in acid solution, but it requires many hours' development. Touching on the use of bromide, it is generally accepted that it lowers the rate of development, and the lecturer had found its other final effect was to reduce or prevent general fog. Broadly speaking, the effect is the same as if the plate were slower, or had received a shorter exposure. It is important to recollect that development is a process of selective reduction, the ideal developer being one which will not reduce silver gelatinobromide that has not been previously exposed to light. After reviewing the different hypotheses of the nature of the change which takes place in the silver bromide during development, it should not be lost sight of that the chemistry of development was the

CHEMISTRY OF DILUTE SOLUTIONS,

and that the phenomena took place in as weak a solution as 1 of pyrogallol in 10,000 of water. The lecturer finished by alluding to the very satisfactory results obtained with the pyrogallol-and-acetone developer. This method of providing the necessary alkali is based on the fact that aldehydes and acetones unite with acid sodium sulphite to form crystalline compounds. Not only does pyrogallol and acetone make a splendid developer, but one containing quinol sodium sulphite and formaldehyde is useful, whilst paramidophenol also develops in presence of sulphites when an aldehyde or acetone is added.

DISCUSSION.

The Rev. A. H. LAMBERT said the remarks of the lecturer were interesting, in view of the conclusion arrived at by Dr. Russell that his photographs taken in the dark were due to peroxide of hydrogen emanating from the varnishes and metals used.

Mr. BROOKS said he had used the pyroacetone developer for six months and found it perfect. He had banished the use of alkalies in development altogether.

Mr. KROHN asked if the lecturer was sure his sulphite of soda was free from carbonate. He had heard of commercial samples containing 25 per cent. of carbonate.

Colonel WATERHOUSE (the Chairman) said he had experimented with every developer, but thought pyrogallol the real stand-by of the photographer. Ferrous oxalate was also very valuable, especially in hot climates, where it was difficult to keep organic developers for any length of time. He referred to his experiments with guaiacol as a developer some years ago, and now knew that it was traces of pyrocatechin which made him think guaiacol possessed develop-

ing-power which it did not. Pyroacetone, he found, had a tendency to frill the gelatin.

Mr. BOTHAMLEY, in replying, said there was no doubt that Dr. Russell's surmises were correct, and pointed out the curious property of peroxide of hydrogen: it not only produced a latent image, but could destroy it, and also develop it according to the conditions. He used ortol very largely for lantern-plates and paper on account of its absolute freedom from staining-properties, but said there was no doubt that pyro was still used for all ordinary purposes. There was no difficulty in getting pure sulphite of soda at about 1s. a lb. Colonel Waterhouse, it should be remembered, experimented with natural guaiacol, and not with the pure synthetic product which could be obtained perfectly free from impurity, and was then free from any developing-power.

The lecturer was heartily thanked for his paper, and for the capital lantern-slides with which it was illustrated.

Western Chemists' Association.

A SPECIAL general meeting of this Association was held in the Westbourne Restaurant on November 30, Mr. J. F. Harrington (President) in the chair.

Mr. J. H. MATHEWS introduced the subject for discussion—namely, the suggested compulsory poison regulations. This Mr. Mathews did in a brief speech, and, in concluding, he proposed a resolution which was varied during the evening, but which eventually stood as follows:—

That in the opinion of the Western Chemists' Association the time has arrived for making regulations for the keeping, dispensing, and selling of poisons in accordance with the Pharmacy Act of 1868, and also that a special meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society should be called in order to consider the question.

This was seconded by Mr. CRACKNELL, who said he understood that the section of the Act relating to the storing and selling of poisons had never been acted upon, and from what he could gather this chiefly arose from the opposition of country chemists to the carrying out of that section at the time.

Mr. R. A. ROBINSON, in supporting the resolution, and at whose suggestion the latter clause of the resolution was added, said it had been borne in upon them that the Government were not satisfied with the way the Act had been administered by the Pharmaceutical Society. What happened in 1868 was that before the Act of 1868 was passed the Government wished to have the administration of this regulation in their own hands, but Mr. Sandford, who was then President of the Pharmaceutical Society, prevailed upon them to throw that duty upon the Society. The Government assented to that course on the understanding that the Society would undertake the duty. When Mr. Sandford brought this forward the proposal met with some opposition, chiefly from country members, who apparently thought it undignified to be put under inspection, and it was argued that it would be better to rely on precautions taken by individual members. The result was that Mr. Sandford, who had pledged his word to the Government on the subject, immediately resigned his presidential position. Ever since then the question had been laid aside, and, consequently, whenever the Privy Council had been approached since by the Pharmaceutical Society this delinquency had been remembered against them. This was particularly noticeable recently, when the Poisonous Substances Bill was brought forward. He personally had communicated with the Privy Council on several occasions, and they had invariably replied that the Society were in default, but recently he had been introduced to Mr. Fitzroy, Clerk of the Privy Council, who had favoured him with a long and pleasant interview. In the course of that interview, Mr. Fitzroy had made what seemed to him one or two very important statements. One was that if the Pharmaceutical Society were to adopt the regulations for the storage, sale, and dispensing of poisons they would be approved by the Privy Council, and that this would put them right with the public. Mr. Fitzroy further said that the Government were not doing anything at present in regard to these things, and they would not do so before consulting the Pharmaceutical Society. He further admitted regret that the Pharmaceutical Society had not been consulted before the Poisonous Substances Bill was brought in last Session. Before the interview ended, Mr.

Robinson thought that several arguments he (the speaker) used in discussing a probable Poisons Bill carried weight. He urged upon Mr. Fitzroy the advisability of adding more poisons to the existing poisons-schedule rather than bringing in a new Poisons Bill. Mr. Fitzroy, it is true, was merely Clerk to the Council, but he had no doubt the Lord President would be made aware of the conversation, and that the Pharmaceutical Society would be consulted before anything was done, and that the Society and the Council would become on more friendly terms than heretofore. Of the merits of the case he had little to say. He thought it would be obvious to everyone that the carrying out of these regulations was the proper thing to do, and their enforcement would do harm to no one's dignity. He would ask them to note particularly that an opportunity was now open for getting on better terms with the Privy Council, and if this opportunity were rejected the Government would undoubtedly bring in a Bill to take the enforcement of regulations into their own hands.

Mr. TAPLIN agreed that the sooner we get in accord with the Privy Council the better for the craft; but he thought there ought to be some specification as to where a poison-cupboard should be kept (a dark corner was an inappropriate place) and what poisons were to be kept in it.

Mr. PHILLIPS wanted to know how the regulations were to be enforced. Would the Pharmaceutical Society send out inspectors in the same way as was done under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, or would it be left to the option of chemists to stow away poisons as they pleased?

Mr. ROBINSON explained that there would be no necessity for a regular inspection. The only difference would be that what is now legal would be then illegal, and if the law was broken, the law-breaker would run the risk of a penalty.

Mr. HYSLOP thought thanks were due to Mr. Robinson for enlightening them on the history of the subject. In many places there was much need of that enlightenment, and it would tend to minimise any opposition which might arise. A distinguished statesman said recently, "The man of action keeps his eye on the weather as well as on his own conscience." Now the chemist was generally a man of action, and his field of action was henceforth clear. It would undoubtedly benefit the craft, as well as ourselves individually and society generally, if we carried out that part of the Act which had been left in abeyance by reason of the opposition of people who had come from the darkest corners of the earth. Within the past thirty years the craft had improved by a system of education and training, and the enforcement of these regulations was less needful now than then. Compulsion was detestable to most Englishmen, but it was especially detested by those to whom it was most necessary to apply it. With reference to storage, he thought it would be better to arrange poisons according to doses. Such a deplorable accident as giving strychnine for morphia could not have happened if the poisons had been arranged according to dosage. It was certainly their duty to show that they were obedient to the Act, and he hoped influential chemists would see that such a resolution as had been proposed was feasible and justifiable.

Mr. WOOLLENS mentioned that in the event of an extension of the schedule including such things as spirit of salt, he thought it ought to be illegal to supply any such poison in other than a poison-bottle.

Mr. TAPLIN said his present practice in a case of that sort was to exchange the bottle brought by the customer for a poison-bottle; but Mr. HYSLOP remarked that the worst of that arrangement was that the same poison-bottle was generally brought back for a pennyworth of syrup of squills.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Robinson then produced a requisition-form calling upon the Pharmaceutical Society to hold a meeting, to which he sought the signatures of thirty pharmaceutical chemists. All the pharmaceutical chemists present signed the requisition-form.

It was announced that the President's inaugural address would be given at the next meeting, on December 21.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Association was held on November 30, Mr. Geo. S. Woolley (the President) in the

chair. The business was the consideration of the resolutions submitted by the Federation of Local Associations. There was a good attendance.

Mr. GIBBONS said he was in a position to say that if they did not accept the suggested resolution with regard to the keeping and storing of poisons, a resolution would be enforced upon them.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the subjects to be considered, said he was glad to notice a considerable revival in pharmaceutical politics throughout the country. He thought it their duty to keep that interest alive and do what they could to stimulate their fellow-craftsmen in the district, and to do everything in their power to improve the legislation that they all so urgently desired. (Applause.)

Mr. HARRY KEMP then introduced the Federal resolutions. He said he hoped gentlemen present would take a lively interest in those resolutions, because he felt quite sure what was done that night would, in a great measure, be reflected in other localities, and they would have an expression of opinion from other parts of the country. It was said the Pharmaceutical Society did not represent the chemists of the country because there were more out of the Society than in it. He hoped that that state of things would be altered. Practically, the policy of the Society was in the hands of every member of the trade.

With regard to the question of trading by limited companies the CHAIRMAN said some legislation was much needed on the subject. It was desirable that the name of the responsible parties should appear on the labels.

Mr. WALTER GIBBONS submitted that the Act of Parliament already provided that the name of the actual seller should appear on the labels of poisons sold by chemists.

Mr. J. RYMER YOUNG, Mr. WOODRUFFE, Mr. PERCY KNOTT (Bolton), Mr. JONATHAN PHILLIPS (Wigan), Mr. SLACK, Mr. KIRKLEY, and others took part in the discussion.

The meeting ended by passing resolutions in favour of the Federation regulations.

Public Dispensers' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at 46 Clarendon Square, N.W., on November 29, Mr. Welford (President) in the chair. The paper of the evening,

URINE AND ITS ANALYSIS,

by Mr. S. B. DONNAN, merited a better attendance of members, for the subject, or that part of it which Mr. Donnan reviewed, was treated in an exhaustive manner and was full of practical suggestions. Mr. Donnan has made the analysis of urine a study for the past twenty-eight years. We shall deal more fully with the paper later. An informal discussion afterwards took place on the

NEW PHARMACEUTICAL BY-LAWS.

Mr. FORSTER (St. Bartholomew's) was of opinion that the by-laws would not put them much farther forward than they were before, except that associates of the Society not in business would have to pay a guinea for what they got before for half a guinea. The Pharmaceutical Society had not done much for the retailer during the past fifteen years, the new schemes of twenty years ago evidently being considered sufficient for to-day. However, now that (by paying an extra half-guinea) they might have a voice in the Society's affairs, their duty clearly was to stir the Society up vigorously. They had approached the Pharmaceutical Society, asking them to use their influence with the Local Government Board to obtain a repeal of an objectionable L.G. minute, but on that particular point the Society had been the reverse of energetic, and the arguments of the President (to him personally), deprecating the intervention of the Society, were absolutely ridiculous. He hoped that with the increase of funds which the by-laws would bring about, there would be an increase in the number of scholarships which the Society would found. The Major he considered now more than ever a useless examination, for even the Pharmaceutical Society, through their journal, recommended that to be a public analyst a man should be a F.I.C. Now, why should not the Major examination be an analytical qualification? With regard to the Poisonous Substances Bill, he considered that the successful rejection of that Bill was

accomplished by outside influence entirely, and credit was not due to the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. WELFORD said the Pharmaceutical Society were in the peculiar position of representing less than a quarter of the chemists on the register, and unless everyone on the register (or at least the majority) joined the Society and backed it up, they could do nothing. They might then obtain many things which they had long wanted. They could insist on all public dispensers being qualified men, and company-trading might be squashed. He then went on to enumerate the privileges of the Society, but

Mr. FORSTER reminded him that most of these so-called privileges are already theirs, and now the Society are asking an extra 10s 6d. for the privilege of a vote. He (Mr. Forster) considered the guinea fee far too much, and was sure it would keep many from joining. He certainly thought the annual meeting ought to be held at some time when it was possible for them to attend. One gentleman suggested Sunday as a convenient day, but it was generally agreed that an evening (in place of an afternoon) meeting would more fully meet the case, and Mr. Forster moved that the following resolution be sent to the Society:—

That this meeting of the Public Dispensers' Association desires to thank the Pharmaceutical Society for its efforts in obtaining the passing of the Amendment Act, and hopes the Society will see its way to make it possible for the new members to attend by altering the hour of the annual meeting from afternoon to evening.

This was seconded by Mr. MILLER (St. Pancras), and unanimously carried.

Edinburgh and District Chemists' Trade Association.

THE first meeting of the session of this Association was held on Tuesday, November 29, in the Pharmaceutical Society's House, Edinburgh. Mr. David McLaren, the new President, occupied the chair. The attendance was small.

In opening the session the PRESIDENT said:

THE DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF A CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

had a wide application. It must be the aim of everyone to hand down to their successors pure and unsullied the good name that had been given to them. It was their privilege to be humble ministers in the work of healing the sick. They did not profess to take the place of the physician. Their duty was to dispense in strict accordance with the instructions of the prescriber the prescriptions handed to them. That, of course, was subject to the usual reservation clause that the ingredients were compatible and the dose within the bounds of reason. It was not their duty to substitute a preparation for one ordered, even although, in their opinion, the other was infinitely superior. He had no sympathy with those who, in their desire to get rich, sought in and out of season to copy the ideas of others. They must try to raise their position by a careful selection of the finest drugs and chemicals, and by skilful manipulation of the same to provide for the use of medical men preparations on which they could rely with almost absolute certainty. Let them fix their own prices, and their customers and friends would like them the better. In that connection he spoke particularly with regard to charges for dispensing. He had been asked if the time had not come when they should issue a list of proprietary articles, quoted at bottom prices, and send it broadcast through the city. He left the answer to their collective wisdom. He referred to the privileges they gained by the Charter of 1852 and the Act of 1868, and regretted that the Society had not the power to compel all who passed the examination to become members of the Society. A condition of opening a shop should either have been the payment of a lump sum or of an annual subscription into the funds of the Society. As to company-pharmacy, the decision of the Court on that point could be overturned by Parliament, and he believed that if chemists and druggists were united they could just now get such support as would pass any Bill that had for its object the public safety. On the subject of the storage of poisons, he said various plans had been suggested—poison-cupboards, bottles with

patent stoppers, and other modes. If poisons, in the broad sense of the word, were to be isolated, it would require a room of no small dimensions to hold them all. He thought the best security for the public was to have all bottles duly labelled, and to exercise a careful supervision over apprentices. If their training in its early stage was properly looked after they would have a better race of men in their profession.

A vote of thanks to the President was moved by Mr. G. LUNAN, and seconded by Mr. BOA.

Mr. LUNAN made a lengthy speech advocating the claims of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. J. R. HILL, in commenting on the address, said in his opinion the spirit of the Act of 1863 was to limit the dispensing of prescriptions to trained men. But that object was not attained. It was attained in the Irish Act of 1875, which, being drafted after some experience of the Act in this country, was formulated with greater care, so that they had this remarkable situation—that they, who thought themselves in advance of the Irish pharmacists, were in that material point distinctly behind them, and he thought that the reasonableness of the claim admitted of no dispute. What was the use of a statute bringing into existence a great body of men trained for so important a duty as the dispensing of medicine if it were still open to Tom, Dick, and Harry to dispense, provided they stopped short of scheduled poisons? Mr. Hill went on to urge that the Pharmaceutical Society was the only body under which chemists could combine, and he discussed some of the complaints brought against it at some length. Referring to the regulations for the storage of poisons, he recounted the history of the dispute between the Privy Council and the members of the Pharmaceutical Society, and read the "recommendations" which had been issued by the Society. He did not think these would be found harassing if they were made regulations, and chemists would be setting their houses in order if they saw their way to carry through the provisions of the Pharmacy Act of 1868. Mr. Hill concluded his speech by discussing the question of company-pharmacy.

Mr. CLAUDE HENRY, though he had a natural disinclination to accept regulations, agreed that it would be wise under the circumstances to consent to make them compulsory.

The vote of thanks to the Chairman was cordially carried.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

THE HON. SECRETARY (Mr. Claude F. Henry) intimated that he had received a communication from the secretary to the wholesale chemists to the effect that the circular issued in June last was the result of their deliberations on the representation made to him by this Association. The result of this is that the 15 per cent. off list-prices, and one month's credit for patent and proprietary articles, is now in operation.

METHYLATED SPIRIT.

THE HON. SECRETARY also mentioned a letter from the Inland Revenue to the effect that mineral oil was required to be put into methylated spirit because so many people used to drink the spirit, and the Board were not aware that any reasons had been advanced for any change over their policy.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

The sum of 2l. 2s. was voted to the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society, and 1l. 1s. to the Orphan Fund.

THE BALL.

Mr. Boa was appointed convener, in place of Mr. McDougall, who resigned, and the ball was fixed for Thursday, January 19.

Sunderland Chemists' Association.

ON November 23 this Association considered the proposal of a Defence Fund, submitted by the P.A.T.A. The scheme was favourably received, and the meeting dealt with the proposals clause by clause. It was decided to send the following suggestions to the Council of the P.A.T.A.:—

(1) To add to the list of Acts under which members were

to be defended the Pharmacy Act and the Employers' Liability Act.

(2) That compensation be given to subscribers to the Fund in the event of damage to goods through the breaking of the window from outside agency, in a case where damages could not be claimed from the person or persons who broke the window.

(3) In reference to the clause in the draft scheme stipulating that a subscriber would be entitled to the costs of his defence up to the amount of 10%, whether guilty or not, but that the Association in the event of a conviction would not pay any fine incurred or costs of prosecution, the Association simply guaranteeing the best possible defence, it was suggested that the costs of the prosecution should also be paid in the case of a conviction, where the total costs do not amount to 10%.

(4) That the Association pay the costs of any appeal which they undertake.

(5) To add to the last clause—namely, "That the retail membership of the Defence Fund be only open to *bona-fide* chemists"—the words "on their own account."

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association.

SIR JAMES SAWYER, M.D., F.R.C.P., who was accompanied by Lady Sawyer, presided on Tuesday night at a meeting of this Association, at which Mr. DENCER WHITTLES, L.D.S., R.C.S., gave a demonstration with an electro-projecting microscope. There was a large attendance of members and lady friends. Sir JAMES SAWYER, in his opening address, took occasion to congratulate Mr. Dencer Whittles upon the honour which had recently fallen upon him by his appointment as first dental surgeon to the Birmingham General Hospital. With regard to the Chemists' Assistants' Association, he knew that assistants were rather a migratory body, but surely there were enough in Birmingham and the Midland counties to form one large Association. He commended the objects of the Association—the intellectual and social development of the members—and expressed his satisfaction at becoming an honorary member. Mr. Dencer Whittles then proceeded with his demonstration, which consisted of a large variety of insects which were thrown on the screen and described. The insects were from life.

Inverness Chemists' Association.

THE committee of this Association have arranged a series of lectures for the winter months, the first of which was given on Monday, November 28, by Mr. W. L. HOWIE, F.C.S., London, in the Town Hall, Inverness. The hall was well filled, and Mr. Howie's lecture, which was on "Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn," and his beautiful lime-light views, were heartily appreciated. Provost MacBean occupied the chair, and the proceeds of the entertainment were given to the local branch of the Jubilee Nurses' Institute. Medical men of the town have promised to give subsequent lectures, and a member of the Association will give a paper on the "British Pharmacopœia, 1898."

Trade Notes.

THE proprietors of Mellin's Food (Limited) announce that from December 7 next they will pay carriage on all orders. They also quote revised prices.

THE salvage stock of druggists' sundries from the fire that occurred on the premises of Messrs. F. Schutze & Co. is to be sold at auction by Messrs. Robert Lync & Co. on December 13.

DIAMOND FROST.—Messrs. Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool, write that, owing to a clerical error on their part, it was stated in the advertisement in our last week's issue of their Diamond Frost for Christmas decoration, that each card held thirteen dozen packets. It should have been seven dozen instead.

HALL'S WINE.—There is a sporting offer of 500% advertised in our advertisement columns. Messrs. Stephen Smith & Co. (Limited), Bow, E., are offering that sum to anyone who can prove that their firm has ever used extract of coca

or cocaine in the preparation of "Hall's Wine." The odds against the winner are very heavy.

FROM an advertisement inserted this week by the proprietor of Beecham's pills inviting chemists to apply for certain counter-bills and calendars, it appears that, notwithstanding the efforts made in some quarters to discourage the distribution of his handbills, over 9,000 applications for these have been made this year by retailers, and over 27,000,000 of such counter-bills have been issued.

TRADE-ALMANACS.—Mr. H. Silverlock has sent us specimens of numerous presentation almanacs and calendars for 1899. The almanacs are very elegantly produced in colours; some of them are simple folding cards, while others contain eight pages of memoranda, together with blank pages for advertisements. They are all suitable for sending out in envelopes. Mr. Silverlock also produces several designs of hanging calendars.

SCREW SPRAY SPRINKLER STOPPER.—Mr. H. Quelch, Ludgate Square, E.C., has hit on the idea of a perfume spray in which the spray portion can be unscrewed and a sprinkler top put in its place at will. The convenience of this arrangement for travellers is apparent, as chemists often receive complaints of the inconvenience of sprays when travelling, owing to the inevitable leakage which must accompany the various tossings a travelling-trunk receives during an average railway journey. The sprinkler tops which Mr. Quelch sends out with the sprays are of a superior kind, being fashioned like a crown, and quite an ornament to a perfume-bottle.

WINTER CONFECTIONS.—Messrs. Jules Denoual & Co., New Cross, S.E., have a few winter lines to which they call the attention of the trade. They are putting up gelatin pastilles of various kinds in 2 oz. and 4-oz. tin boxes, round-cornered, gold-lacquered, and neatly-labelled. Glycerin and compound terebene (bright-coated) are included in this series; both are good. They also offer crystallised eucalyptus pastilles and compound Norwegian tar pastilles (lozenges) in bulk quantities, or in 2-oz. card boxes appropriately labelled. If there is nothing in their comprehensive list of lozenges and pastilles which quite meets the chemist's ideas, all he has to do is tell the firm what he wants, and they will make a sample batch and submit samples with quotations.

BAYER'S NEW REMEDIES.—Some time ago we printed a note upon the new derivative of morphine which Messrs. F. Bayer & Co. had succeeded in synthesising, and introduced under the name "Heroin." It is a diacetic ester of the alkaloid, and has been found to be beneficial as a bronchial stimulant, resembling codeine in action, but being somewhat surer in its results. The firm's London branch, 19 St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C., send us a sample of heroin. It is a white powder, and is the hydrate of the derivative, therefore dissolves but sparingly in water, although readily on the addition of acetic acid. It is recommended to be given in powders with sugar, or in brandy or acetic aqueous fluids. The following is a good formula for a bronchial mixture:—

Heroin..	...	...	...	...	gr. j.
Acid. acetic. dil.	...	...	...	...	ʒss.
Syr. toluatan.	...	...	...	...	ʒss.
Aquæ ad	...	...	...	...	ʒvj.

Dissolve the heroin in the acid, add 4 oz. of water, then the syrup and make up. Dose for an adult, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (say, a dessertspoonful) thrice daily.

The firm are also makers of creosotal (creosote carbonate) and duotol (guaiaicol carbonate), remedies for pulmonary phthisis, and which from their bland nature may be administered in much larger doses than either of the bases, so that the antiseptic action of the bases is quickly established and maintained.

A SOLUBLE GUAIAICOL DERIVATIVE.—Thiocol is the trade-name of a new compound of guaiaicol, which is made by Messrs. F. Hoffmann, La Roche & Co., of Basle, and is placed on the English market by Mr. Hugo Lorenz, 7-8 Idol Lane, E.C., who is now distributing samples of the remedy and literature upon it to doctors. Thiocol is the potassium guaiaicol sulphionate ($C_9H_7OH.OCH_2SO_3K$), and occurs as an almost odourless white powder which is very soluble in water, this being the special advantage claimed for it over all other guaiaicol compounds. It is given in doses of 15 to

20 gr. each two or three times daily. It is most conveniently administered in water, with a little orange-syrup or other corrective. A 10-per-cent. thiocol orange-syrup is prepared ready for use, and sold under the name of "sirolin." It has a very pleasant taste, and may be taken undiluted, or in water, wine, or milk. Chemists and druggists who like to keep in line with new remedies can get a pamphlet on thiocol on application to Mr. Lorenz, and the article itself from any of the wholesale houses. Mr. Lorenz is also the agent for airol (Roche), the iodo-bismuth substitute for iodoform.

Business Changes.

Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.

MAGOR (LIMITED) are opening a shop at 318 Broad Street, Birmingham.

THE ALBION DRUG-STORES (LIMITED), Bradford, are about to open branch premises at the bottom of Westgate in that town.

MR. F. J. T. LONG, chemist, Dover, has purchased the business previously carried on by Mr. F. Rose at 30 Harbour Street, Ramsgate.

MR. T. KNIGHT, chemist and druggist, has succeeded to the old-established business of the late Mr. F. Satchell, at Crowthorne, Beiks.

MR. DEAKIN, chemist, late of Broughton-in-Furness, is taking over the business of Mr. Senior, chemist, at Varandah Buildings, Dalton-in-Furness.

THE old-established tic-powder business of the late Mr Samuel Barlow, Darlington, has been acquired by Mr. T. B. Illsley, chemist, Barnard Castle.

MR. JOSIAH EVANS, M.P.S., has taken over the old-established business lately carried on by Mr. Hobson Key at 28 Agincourt Square, Monmouth.

IN consequence of the expiration of the lease, the business carried on for the past twenty-eight years by Mr. G. A. Hodgkinson, chemist, at 254 Goswell Road, E., will be discontinued, and transferred to 9 Chapel Street, Somers Town.

MESSRS. GOLDTHORPE & COOKE inform us that it is just six years since they purchased the premises at Hare Street, Woolwich, which are being demolished. In last week's issue we stated that the purchase took place "a year or two" ago.

MESSRS. PRITCHARDS (LIMITED), of Cheadle, near Manchester, have disposed of the retail-department of their business at 71 High Street, to Messrs. T. & W. Woodruff, of Withington and Cheadle-Hulme. The firm will henceforth devote the whole of their attention to the further development of their teething-powder and other proprietary articles business, which will be carried on as heretofore at 73 High Street, Cheadle. The transfer of the retail business was effected by Messrs. Thos. Tomlinson & Son, Manchester.

Personalities.

MR. JOHN CRAIL, chemist, Annan, who entered the Town Council last year, has been elected junior magistrate.

MR. THOS. HETHERINGTON, chemist, Tillicoultry, has been elected unopposed to the Clackmannan County Council.

DR. W. TREUB, the Director of the Botanic Gardens in Java, has been authorised by Royal decree to assume the title "Professor."

MR. CHARLES UMNEY was warmly greeted on 'Change this week, after an absence of nearly a month owing to indisposition.

MR. W. KUHLENTHAL, the "Spor" agent, has just returned from New York, where he was entertained by the New York Drug trade Club before he left.

MR. CRISSACRE GEORGE MOOR, M.A. (Cantab.), F.I.C. F.C.S., has been appointed public analyst for the city and county of Exeter, in the place of the late Mr. F. P. Perkins.

MR. J. B. WILSON, son of Mr. J. J. Wilson, chemist and druggist, Egremont, at the recent graduation ceremonial at the University of Edinburgh received the degree of M.B., C.M.

MR. EDWARD HAROLD FLOWER, chemist and druggist, has been elected to fill a vacancy caused by the appointment of a councillor to the Aldermanic Bench of the Hemel Hempstead Town Council.

A WEDDING has been arranged between the Earl of Strafford and Mrs. Colgate, of New York, whose husband died about five years ago and left her a fortune of 2,000,000*l.*, all of which (according to the *Daily Chronicle*) was made out of soap and perfumery.

MR. J. LLOYD-ROBERTS has taken over the secretarial duties of the Chemists' Assistants' Union, and asks us to state to correspondents who have not received replies to their communications that it is due to the sudden illness of Mr. Pickering, the former Secretary.

MR. STANLEY SMITH, of the firm of Bertie-Smith & Co., Bombay, has returned from a business tour on the Continent, where he has been picking up agencies. Mr. Smith was surprised to find THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST so generally taken by the wholesale drug-houses of Germany. They are intelligent men, those German wholesale druggists.

Educating the Students.

MR. F. PILKINGTON SARGEANT, Ph.C., after good experience as an educator in Manchester, has removed to Leeds, where, at 19 Springfield Place, near the infirmary, he is fitting up a college of pharmacy, which will be opened after Christmas holidays. Mr. Sargeant's success will depend chiefly upon himself, and those who know him feel that he lacks neither ability nor push towards that end; but something also depends upon the start that the drug-trade in Leeds gives him. Several previous attempts to provide efficient pharmaceutical instruction in Leeds have failed owing to local apathy, but that should not happen now that the demand for instruction has increased and the antipathy to private ventures is practically a thing of the past.

On November 25 the students of the Sheffield College of Pharmacy, accompanied by the Principal and others, descended the shaft of the new pit of the Birley Collieries. During the two-and-a-half hours' stay all the details of coal-mining were explained. Employing 1,000 men and boys, and by the aid of dynamite and a system of endless haulage, the cages bring to the surface 1,400 tons daily. The men work about eight hours a day each (fifteen and a half hours—two shifts). Over thirty-two miles of rails are laid. Tea was generously provided by Mr. Cutts, one of the officials, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Gray, the under-manager, who acted as guide.

Last Saturday the students of the Glasgow and West of Scotland School of Pharmacy, with their Principal, Mr. Barrie, visited the chemical-works of Messrs. Hope Brothers, Glasgow, and saw in active operation the preparation of sulphuric, nitric, and hydrochloric acids. The large crystallising-vats reserved for crystallising Glauber salts attracted much attention, as well as the method of removing arsenic as sulphide from crude sulphuric acid.

The system of educating through the eye, dealt with in the two preceding paragraphs, has much to commend it. We suppose most pharmaceutical teachers feel themselves too rushed to spare time for excursions of this nature; but an hour in a factory or a drug-warehouse may be made more instructive than half-a-dozen lectures.

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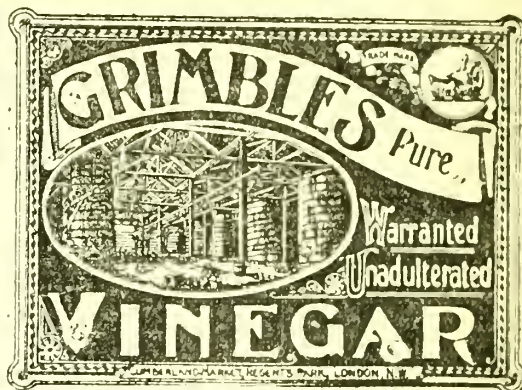
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Editorial Comments.

Company Chemists and Chemists' Companies.

THE directors of Boots (Limited) are so satisfied with the position the company has obtained that they think themselves justified in now paying quarterly dividends on the ordinary shares at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum. Their net trading-profits during the past year are reported to have reached 16,946%, which was 3,165% more than was gained in the previous year. It is not surprising that this result should be described as "satisfactory to the shareholders."

It need not be stated that the chemists of this country do not share in the satisfaction with the result we have quoted. This is natural; but the organised agitation which we have been reporting week by week is not likely, we fear, to reduce the 12 per cent. within any reasonable time. The idea of the Federation in recommending this agitation is, we understand, to bring pressure to bear on the Pharmaceutical Society, and for this purpose the time chosen is opportune. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society are just now particularly pliant. But it does not seem to us that they have the slightest intention of satisfying the demands of

their constituents in this matter. To a considerable extent we sympathise with their complaint against the vague resolutions, demanding some impossible benefit, which are adopted by some local associations. At the same time, we sympathise still more with the view expressed last week at Blackburn that it is not the duty of local associations to draft Bills. Their business at present is to voice the wants of the trade. If that voice is unanimous, it becomes the duty of the Pharmaceutical Council to either carry out the mandate of their constituents, or to decide that the object aimed at is unattainable, and to tell us why.

It is surely time to decide whether any action is practicable, and, if so, what shall be done. It was in July, 1880, that the House of Lords gave the memorable judgment legitimatising company-pharmacy. Since then hundreds of businesses have been established and hundreds of thousands of pounds have been invested on the strength of that judgment. It is not a bit of use to ignore this important factor. It will certainly be urged with effect if any measure interfering with these enterprises should be introduced into the House of Commons. The Pharmaceutical Council have been to Parliament half-a-dozen times in these eighteen years asking for one amendment and another, and they have never mentioned this one. This will be a very difficult neglect to explain. They published a draft Bill in January, 1881, in which it was proposed, among many other details, that the word "person" in section 15 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and elsewhere should include corporate bodies. It was then that the correction could have been most effectively demanded. But the draft Bill was quietly shelved and never went before Parliament at all. Since then the Council have persistently refused to raise the question or to accept an opportunity when it was offered to them. To go on year after year complaining of the injustice under which we suffer and making no attempt to get it remedied is neither a decent nor a dignified policy. We say again it is time that the Council should declare, not in irresponsible after-dinner speeches merely, but after formal debate, what they are prepared to attempt, or if they have definitely decided to do nothing.

So far as we can judge, there is only one thing which can be asked for with a reasonable prospect of getting it, even supposing we can ever reach a discussion of our claim in Parliament. That is, not that companies carrying on the business of chemists and druggists should be entirely suppressed not only would the consideration of the now established vested interests be fatal to that claim, but the large number of pharmaceutical companies directed exclusively by pharmacists which have been registered in recent years would go a long way to make any such application hopeless. But it would not be an unreasonable demand that all companies practising pharmacy should be levelled up to the position of those we have just referred to. The Lord Chancellor was willing to stipulate that every company's chemist's shop should be managed by a qualified chemist. The principle involved in that suggestion might assuredly be carried to its logical conclusion by requiring that the persons who really control those shops—the directors and managing directors, that is—should in all cases be themselves qualified. If it is a right principle that the managers of every shop should be qualified, it is still more essential that the managers' managers should be qualified. As we have lately seen, the Irish Judges have drawn a distinction between companies entirely composed of pharmacists and other companies not so constituted. We do not think their judgment is in accord with that of the House of Lords, but it is a not unsound principle as a basis for future legislation.

Export of Tinctures.

HITHERTO no drawback has been payable on medicinal preparations containing chloroform or ether. By an order printed below it will be seen that the Excise have made a considerable concession in regard to the most important of these preparations. Spirits of ether and chloroform can now be prepared in presence of an Excise officer, who will certify as to the quantity of spirit of wine used, on which the usual drawback will be paid on exportation. In addition, ethereal tincture of lobelia, compound spirit of ether, and compound tincture of chloroform are added to the list of tinctures, &c., in which the spirit will be estimated at the Government laboratory, and drawback allowed on the quantity found, *plus* an allowance of 4 per cent. for waste. The general order (No. 17, 1893) contains the following paragraphs:—

Drawback may in future be allowed on the spirits used in compounding spirits of chloroform and spirits of ether exported or shipped for use as ships' stores, on condition that the spirits are first taken account of by the officer and the chloroform or ether added in his presence.

The quantity of spirits of wine to which the chloroform or ether is to be added must be specified, and the purpose for which it is used stated in the notice to pack, and the officer should take account of it as in the case of spirits of wine exported. No special allowance for waste is to be made in either case.

Drawback is also to be allowed on the spirit used in the manufacture of ethereal tincture of lobelia, compound spirit of ether, and compound tincture of chloroform, as in the case of other medicinal spirits, on being exported or shipped for use as ships' stores. These preparations should be scheduled as entitled to the special allowance of 4 per cent. for waste.

The same order also contains directions for carrying into effect the Act of last Session with regard to the "entry" of premises for Excise purposes by incorporated and chartered companies. Such companies will in future be treated as individuals. Other concessions will, no doubt, follow in due course. There are some preparations containing spirit, or prepared from spirit, which must logically be placed on the same footing as those already on the list. The policy of the authorities, however, is evidently to proceed cautiously step by step, and only to concede the drawback after evidence has been placed before them that there is reasonable ground for believing that its absence handicaps manufacturing and exporting firms in this country in competition with their foreign rivals. By a little judicious pressure, we believe, such firms will in the long run obtain other necessary and desirable concessions. From communications which we have had with the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, we learn that the question of adding the alcoholic preparations of the new British Pharmacopœia (which are not already available for full drawback) has been under consideration. These preparations may, of course, be exported and drawback obtained upon them, but the extra 4 per cent. for loss of spirit in manufacture is not given, and will not be until the Board makes an order to that effect. We brought the matter under the notice of the Board some time ago, and are now informed by the Board that not a single wholesale druggist has urged the scheduling of the new tinctures, &c. It is desirable that all who are interested should make representations to the Board of Inland Revenue, as no concession will be made until it is asked for by the persons directly concerned. The importance of the drawback regulations to the British wholesale drug-trade may be judged from the fact that the most recent returns show that drawback has been paid on 19,420 gals. of proof spirit contained in the medical preparations exported during the

quarter ending September 30 last. This is an increase of 3,772 gals. compared with the corresponding quarter of 1897, which also showed a small increase over the September quarter in the previous year.

Poisons Regulations.

AFTER a somewhat troubled sleep, lasting nearly thirty years, it appears that the question of compulsory regulations for the keeping, dispensing, and selling of poisons is to come to the front again. In our issues of November 5 and 12 we pointed out that whatever else the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society did or left undone they should be prepared with some definite policy in regard to the poisons-schedule. Dr. Symes, at the November Council meeting, had remarked that it would be wise at this time to set their house in order by agreeing to the demand of the Privy Council that poisons regulations, as contemplated by the Pharmacy Act of 1868, should be adopted. The President expressed his agreement with this view, but it did not seem that there was any intention on anybody's part to go beyond the expression of a pious opinion. We have urged for many years that the refusal of chemists to submit to the enactment of reasonable regulations when the Privy Council authorities called for these soon after the Act of 1868 came into operation was a serious error. We do not know that fatalities can be traced to the neglect, but certainly the claim was not an unjust one, and ready compliance on the part of the trade with the Privy Council's desire would have been diplomatic, and in no respect, so far as we can see, disadvantageous. The Privy Council have never forgotten the rebellion, but, as Mr. Robinson intimates, they are willing to clean the old slate and start afresh. A new generation of chemists will be affected, and it is for them to decide on their future policy. The old hogey of official inspection, at all events, need not frighten them. As we have often said, a better advertisement could not be desired by the up-to-date chemist than a certificate, if something of the kind could be got, to the effect that his pharmacy had been thoroughly examined by her Majesty's Inspector and found to be in perfect order, and that the public might get their prescriptions there dispensed with every assurance of safety.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND EXPORT TRADE.

We hope the invitation which Mr. H. O. Arnold Forster, M.P., addresses to our readers this week will bring some result. He asks exporters here, and importers abroad, to give him instances of the actual loss of trade through the persistent retention of our old weights, measures, and moneys, in the competition for the world's trade, which has latterly become so severe. All of our consuls quote this as one of the principal factors militating against us, and it is obvious that it must seriously interfere with our chances in countries where our lbs., cwts., pts., qts., gals., yds., and ft. are utterly unfamiliar. In his "Coming of the Kilogram," Mr. Arnold Forster referred to one instance where a large purchaser abandoned his original design of buying from England because he could not understand the quotations. A few scores of such concrete instances brought together would exercise a great effect, and no one could manipulate them better than Mr. Arnold Forster; besides which, he is in a position to use them influentially, and he has given evidence in other questions of untiring tenacity in pressing his views on the Legislature.

ANTICIPATING THE PLYMOUTH CONFERENCE.

It is suggestive of the liberal way in which the Plymouth chemists think of entertaining the British Pharmaceutical

Conference that they are already offering to send to any chemist who would care to have one, a copy of "Plymouth as a Tourist and Health Resort," by the Medical Officer of Health of the town, Dr. F. M. Williams, which has only been published recently. Plymouth has a famous history, it is grandly situated, and within easy reach of it there are rare attractions of scenery, and some of the greatest engineering-works in the kingdom. To all these Dr. Williams does justice, so far as this can be done, within the limits of such a work; his historical sketch is particularly interesting, while the score of illustrations, which are also given, are admirably produced. Mr. Alfred D. Breeze (the Hon. Secretary of the Plymouth Mercantile Association) sends us a copy of the book, and says he will gladly send a copy to any chemist who will write to him for one, remitting 2½d. for postage. Mr. Breeze's address is the Plymouth Incorporated Mercantile Association, Western Law Courts, Plymouth. We may warn chemists that if they get this book they will find it difficult to resist the temptation of visiting Plymouth next summer.

PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE DARK.

Dr. W. J. Russell, some time ago, drew attention to the fact that certain bodies could act in the dark on a photographic plate in such a manner that the plate, on development in the ordinary way, showed an image. Dr. Russell lectured on the subject before the Royal Photographic Society, last week, and gave some particulars of his investigations. The principal substances dealt with were printer's ink, in contact with or at a distance from a photographic plate, oils, copal varnish, turpentine, terpenes, wood and metals. Many illustrations of the various phases of the subject were thrown on the screen, but the interest to chemists centres round the suggestion of the doctor that from experiments he had made, peroxide of hydrogen is the cause of the curious phenomena. When we glance at the list of substances which are used there seems every possibility that this is so. The subject is very interesting, and tends to explain some abnormalities which photographers have hitherto been at a loss to account for.

COLONIAL IMPORT-DUTIES.

A Blue-book containing 399 pages, relating to the rates of import-duties in the British colonies and dependencies, has been prepared by the Board of Trade and published by the Queen's printers. As a book of reference it will be useful to the exporter, but there is no information given beyond the bare tariff-rates. The section devoted to chemicals, oils, fats, &c., covers sixty-four pages, and includes the duties on alkali, alum, arsenic, barytes, bleaching-materials, borax, brimstone, copperas, sal ammoniac, saltpetre, glycerin, turpentine, waxes, vegetable oils, &c. Amongst miscellaneous articles we find "perfumery," but nowhere in the book can we discover any reference to the duties on drugs and medicines which colonials have imposed upon themselves. Why these have been omitted we cannot explain; had they been in it we should have recommended the Blue-book as one which every export druggist should have, but in its present form we think they will be wise to avoid it. It is a book which one can lose temper, if not sanity, over. We cannot say that the information is jumbled together, for the compiler appears to have had a system of classification. Thus chemicals are grouped as alkali, alum, white arsenic, barytes, bleaching-material, borax, brimstone, copperas, sal ammoniac, and saltpetre. It is, perhaps, not astonishing that "lime of all kinds" should come under "bleaching-materials," but one would not dream of looking for "bichromate of potash and bisulphite of soda" there. There they are, however. If there had been an index to the book, vagaries of classification might have been overlooked, but further than the "contents" there is no guide to the book.

THE FEDERATION OF LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

A "second communication" from the hon. sec. of the Federation has just been issued to local associations urging them to continue their efforts "demanding that the public should be protected from illegitimate trading." The utterances of the Lord Chancellor in Parliament, and of the Lord Chief Justice at the installation of the Lord Mayor, were referred to as hopeful signs; and it is stated that "we have practically the word of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society that he will take action if he is properly supported by local associations." It is suggested that associations might discuss the feasibility of a clause compelling men to register as students three years before entering for the Minor examination; the recommendations for keeping, dispensing, and selling poisons; and power to strike names of men off the register for "covering" unqualified persons. Finally, it is suggested that associations not affiliated might send in their half-guineas.

VIRTUOUS, BY COMPARISON.

"The prescribing chemist may be objectionable, but he does not generally do actual harm, whereas the consulting optician (or eyesight specialist) often causes harm and pain to young people who may consult him." Thus a medical correspondent in the *Lancet*, who seems indignant at the Spectacle-makers' Company becoming alive to its ancient functions. What pleases us about the quotation is the acknowledgment that "the prescribing chemist . . . does not generally do actual harm," which is a distinct advance in the English practitioner's way of thinking.

NEW EUCALYPTUS OILS.

Mr. R. T. Baker's study of the eucalypts of New South Wales continues. His last paper, presented to the Linnean Society of the colony, deals with two new species of *Eucalyptus* remarkable for the chemical constituents of their oils, and known vernacularly as "Silver-top Stringy-bark" and "Messmate." For the first of the two the name *E. laevopinea* is suggested, because the oil obtained from the leaves consists largely of pinene which is lævo-rotatory, and the name *E. dextropinea* is proposed for the second species, owing to the oil consisting largely of pinene which in this case is dextro-rotatory. In both the specific rotation is greater than in the well-known pinenes obtained from the *Conifera*, although chemically identical.

A NEW FAKE.

A correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* exposes a new form of German competition. He bought a hypodermic syringe bearing the name of an English manufacturer on the glass barrel—a name which was a guarantee of quality. On first trial the joints leaked, and the instrument was altogether of the worst description. On writing to the maker he received the reply, "It is quite true that the barrel is mine, but the Germans buy these and fix their own mounts and needles to them." "Is it not a shame that this should be so?" queries the *B.M.J.* correspondent. Decidedly; and, worse, it is clearly an infringement of the Merchandise-marks Act if the syringe-barrels are exported and brought back as complete syringes without indication that they have been made abroad. The maker of the barrels should have no difficulty in getting the Public Prosecutor to take the matter up, and this he should do.

HOT AIR AS A REMEDY.

Dr. William Taylor, of Edinburgh, has communicated an interesting paper to the *Lancet* of November 23 on the treatment of neuralgia and various other painful affections by means of hot air. It is scarcely possible to fully explain the application of the remedy without the illustrations, so that those interested should refer to the original for these. We may, however, state that the hot air is generated in a small electro-thermogen into which a fan is fixed that drives the air over an electrically-heated spiral of fine wire, from which

the air goes direct to the painful part. Dr. Taylor gives particulars of several cases of neuralgia which he has cured with the application of air heated to 200° F. or over. The air is applied until the skin becomes blanched, blistering follows, and in other cases relief, previously unobtainable by drugs, is secured. It was also applied by a medical friend to a decayed tooth which had been aching for three days, and five minutes' application of the hot-air current completely removed the pain, which did not return after eight months. Sore throat, lumbago, shingles, and other painful complaints were also cured by it. The matter interests chemists chiefly from the point of view that they may be called upon to supply the apparatus. Presumably, makers of surgical instruments will supply them, but Dr. Taylor mentions no names.

Bone Brush Makers' Strike.

Tooth-brushes and Nail-brushes may become Scarce.

FOR the last thirteen weeks there has been a strike in progress among the workmen who fashion the rough bone into shape ready for inserting the bristles of tooth and nail brushes. The men are asking for an increased pay of 1s. a gross, which the masters contend they cannot possibly grant on account of the small margin of profit they now obtain. It appears that a year ago an increase of 3*l.* a gross was granted, and it is considered that the increase asked for now is quite unreasonable. The Workmen's Compensation Act has, moreover, caused the masters additional expense for insurance, and helped to diminish profits. The men's union have circulated a report that the workers only get an average of 25s. a week, which statement Messrs. G. B. Kent & Sons contradict. The average, as shown by their books, comes out at 30s. 7½*d.*, including all holidays and absence through illness, and there are individual cases where men who put in a fair day's work earn 42s. a week. Neither the men or masters seem at present inclined to give way, and at the last Thursday meeting of the masters it was resolved that the increase in pay could not possibly be given. The men are very bitter over a fresh condition which the masters are making, in regard to admitting non-union men to the workshops. Up to now the masters have consulted the men's union when they required fresh hands, but have tired of this restriction, and have resolved to engage union and non-union men as they please. The heavy stocks of brushes held by the makers have prevented any difficulty in filling orders so far, and dealers in tooth-brushes are not likely to feel any inconvenience at present. Most of the firms involved in the strike are taking steps to instal machinery, which it is found can prepare the bone with even more accuracy than hand-labour. It has been pointed out that the occupation of the men who are out on strike is not a highly skilled one, and in many of the works apprentices can turn out work equal to what the men do. The competition of the well-finished Japanese and French brushes, which come over here at a cheaper rate than English-made brushes can be produced, is one of the causes of the masters declining to pay the men extra money, and causing them to instal machinery to replace some of the hand-work formerly employed. In addition to information supplied by Messrs. G. B. Kent & Sons, we have gleaned many interesting particulars from Messrs. R. Addis & Son, the makers of "Everfast" tooth-brushes.

HERNE BAY used to have two chemists, but the place has lately become so popular with Londoners as a summer-resort that two more chemists have ventured to settle down there, and now we learn that the number will shortly be increased to six.

THE Christmas number of the *Photogram* has two supplements, reproductions of the Holy Shroud of Turin. The larger supplement is 20 by 5½ inches, and is intended for framing. The other contents include an obituary notice of the late Mr. Gleeson White, who was a frequent contributor to the *Photogram*.

The British Pharmacopœia.

The Committee Reports upon its Reception by Medicine and Pharmacy, and Submits a Draft of the Colonial and Indian Addendum.

TO pharmacists the most important business of the General Medical Council on Wednesday had reference to the new B.P. The report by the committee repeats what we published last week regarding the rapid sale of the book, and recommends a further issue of 5,000 copies, making a total of 26,500 [a number which should yield the Council a gross revenue of 8,500—*Ed. C. & D.*]. The report proceeds:—

The Pharmacopœia of 1898 seems to have proved acceptable to the medical profession generally, and it has likewise been well received by pharmacists. The committee are of opinion that some of the criticisms of the Pharmacopœia should be investigated and reported on by experts, and suggest that arrangements should be made for carrying out such investigations, and also for accumulating information for the next publication of a Pharmacopœia. They recommend that Dr. Attfield be asked to report on the criticisms passed on the Pharmacopœia, and on the progress of pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry during the years 1897 and 1898.

They recommend also that the Pharmaceutical Societies be invited by the Council to co-operate in these inquiries and investigations. These Societies might be invited by the Council to appoint representatives to confer with members of the Pharmacopœia Committee, and the Pharmacopœia Committee should have the power to appoint experts in pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry to report upon matters deemed worthy of investigation.

The committee further suggest that Dr. Tirard should be requested to act as reporter to the Pharmacopœia Committee on advances in pharmacology and therapeutics bearing on the Pharmacopœia.

The report, which is signed by Professor D. J. Leech (Chairman of the Committee) then deals with the Indian and Colonial Addendum, of which full reference is subjoined. We may point out the novelties in the recommendations made to the Council:—

(1) Immediate investigation and report on criticisms, and arrangements by the Council for such investigations.

We welcome this course as one which we have frequently advocated. The uninterrupted service by Dr. Attfield is also satisfactory, but cannot be ranked as novel.

(2) Co-operation of the Pharmaceutical Societies.

Hitherto the Society of Great Britain alone has co-operated—an obvious incompleteness, not to mention the injustice Ireland.

(3) Appointment of a reporter in pharmacology and therapeutics.

A proper course, as it will keep progress on the medical side of the B.P. in line with the pharmaceutical. There can be no question that in these recommendations a distinct advance is made in our methods of Pharmacopœia revision. While it may be the case that some criticism offered on the B.P. is not based upon matured experience, and that some of it may not proceed from experience at all, yet there is little of it which is not suggestive and deserving of consideration by the authorities. It can only be tested satisfactorily as it arises, and the arrangements now to be entered upon appear to promise all that is desirable. May we suggest that the Pharmaceutical Committees should contain a minimum of administrators, whose time is necessarily taken up with consideration of Council affairs? Turning now to the

INDIAN AND COLONIAL ADDENDUM,

We may state that the draft forms a pamphlet of thirty pages. It begins with an historical *résumé* of the origin of the proposed Addendum, all of which has been told in the *C. & D.*, and proceeds to say that of twenty-eight authorities addressed eleven replied that they had no suggestion to offer, as the climatic conditions of their colonies were not so different from those at home to require special consideration. The Indian Government's committee drew up three valuable reports, and reports were also received from Hong-Kong, Queensland, and Victoria. The Pharmacopœia Committee has sifted these, and drafted monographs de-

scriptive of proposed materia medica, as well as formulae for preparations, and these constitute the bulk of the pamphlet. The draft is now to be submitted to Indian and colonial authorities for criticism, amendment, or additions. When the replies are received the Addendum will be whipped into shape and published as speedily as possible. All suggestions are to be addressed to Dr. Attfield, General Medical Council Office, 299 Oxford Street, London, England, and after reading the subjoined notes, if any of our Indian and colonial subscribers think that they can assist in the matter, they should write out their opinions concisely and explicitly, mentioning authorities, if possible, or supplementing their remarks with specimens. It would be useless to communicate in general terms, as there is no time left for repeated inquiry. Members of colonial pharmaceutical societies who have suggestions to make should, in the first instance, ascertain what their societies are to do in the matter.

The subjoined paragraphs summarise the monographs of the draft, but we have added explanatory comments in most instances:—

Acaciæ Arabicæ Cortex.—Suggested by the Indian authorities as a substitute for oak-bark, no longer official. Is it still desired? [Decoction largely used in India as a substitute for oak-bark with great success (Kanny Lall, Dey). Waring confirms.] Victoria is asked to supply descriptions of the commercial samples of *Acacia mollissima*, Willd. and *A. decurrens*, Willd., barks. Should they, or either of them, be made official in place of oak-bark?

Acaciæ Gummi.—Indian authorities recommend gums from *Acacia Catechu*, *A. leucophloea*, and *Feronia elephantum*. [This suggestion does not include the better-known Indian gums, and the committee asks for more information, suggesting the recognition rather of Ghatti gum (see *Gummi Indicum*). *Feronia elephantum* is "one of the most valuable of the Indian gums, and is a good substitute for gum arabic" (Prebble). The gum of the first-named is also soluble. Amrad gum is a red gum yielded by *A. arabica*.

Acalypha.—India recommends the juice of *Acalypha indica* as a substitute for senega. The committee want to know what juice? fresh or preserved. [This is a euphorbiaceous plant. The fresh juice of the leaves is used in teaspoonful doses for children suffering from croup. It is emetic and expectorant, but has laxative properties also.]

Acidum Aceticum.—The Indian Committee wish this to be made from the glacial acid—1 to 2 of water. Nothing in the B.P. to prevent that, is the reply.

Aconitum Napellus.—Does the aconite-root grown in Victoria correspond exactly with British aconite-root? Furnish a description.

Agropyrum or Couch-grass.—The rhizome of *Agropyrum repens*, Beauvois (*Triticum repens*, L.). Characters are given. Recommended by the Hong-Kong authorities. Decoction to be made by boiling 1 oz. in 24 oz. of water for ten minutes, straining, and making up to 1 pint.

Alstonia.—The bark of *Alstonia constricta* (F. v. M.). Recommended by Queensland, with a tincture as *tr. calumbe*, 1898. Characters of bark given. [This is the Queensland fever-bark, obtained from an apocynaceous tree. Good in remittent fever, and much used out there. Alstonine, an alkaloid, is its active principle.]

Andrographis [Kreat]. The whole plant, *Andrographis paniculata*, Nees [N.O. *Acanthaceae*]. Recommended by India as cheap equivalent of Himalayan chiretta. Characters given. Suggested preparations, infusum, liquor cone., and tinctura, like those of chiretta. [Kreat occasionally comes into the English market as chiretta. In many parts of India it is preferred, and is known there as the "King of Bitters."]

Aristolochia.—The stem and root of *Aristolochia indica*, L. [Indian Birthwort]. Wanted by India as a substitute for serpentry and infusum, liquor cone., and tinctura as serpentry recommended. Characters and tests given. [This root is used in India as an emmenagogue, antiarthritic, antiscorbutic, and astringent.]

Aurantii Cortex Indicus.—Indian authorities wish the peel (fresh or dried) of oranges grown in India to be officialised. Which? asks the committee. [The orange (*Citrus Aurantium*) is supposed to be a native of India, and the sweet orange grows there abundantly, but the bitter orange is not so abundant (K. L. Dey).]

Beilschmiedia.—Bark of *Beilschmiedia obtusifolia*, B. & H. Characters given. A saffras-like drug recommended by Queensland, with 1 in 10 S.V.R. tincture. Should it be called Nesodaphne or Beilschmiedia?

Belæ Fructus.—The dried, half-ripe fruit and its liquid extract are desired by Hong-Kong and India. Liquid extract (1 in 1) to be made by triple maceration in cold water, evaporation, and addition of 5 oz. alcohol to 15 oz. [H.K.]

Berberis.—The stem of *Berberis aristata*, DC. [The root-bark of this plant (Indian Barberry) is in the "Pharmacopœia of

India," but the stem, as extract (Rusot), and the fruit are also used medicinally. Wanted by India [in place of hydrastis rhizome]. Characters given, and liquor and tinctura (as hydrastis). [The stem and root bark contain berberine and two other alkaloids. The root-bark is antipyretic, antiperiodic, diaphoretic, and tonic. Rusot is the principal form in which the wood is used medicinally.]

Betel.—The leaves of *Piper Betel*, L. Wanted by India. Characters given. Committee wants to know what preparations should be used. [The leaves much used in the East along with areca nut as a masticatory; also alone as a poultice for children's bronchial affections. The fresh juice is carminative and astringent.]

Butea Gummi.—An exudation from the stem of *Butea frondosa*, Roxb. Proposed by the Indian Government Committee as a substitute for official [Malabar] kino. Characters and tests given with pulvis, and tinctura as kino. [This is Bengal kino. It is commoner in bazaars than Malabar kino, and is more used. Is an excellent astringent, milder than catechu, and "more soluble in water than the true kino" (K. L. Dey). See, however, C. & D. DIARY, 1899, page 511.]

Butea Semina.—The seeds of the preceding plant. Recommended by India as a substitute for santonin. Characters given, and infusion $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to the pint boiling water infused fifteen minutes. ["We have tried the seeds as an anthelmintic, and are inclined to think favourably of them" (*Pharmacographia Indica*). Waring speaks highly of their efficacy in expelling round-worm. Dose of the kernel, 20 gr.]

Cambogia Indica.—India wants the gamboge obtained from *Garcinia Morella* recognised. The B.P. Committee are not disinclined even to add it to the B.P. if a uniform quality can be ensured. [Care in collection is all that is necessary.]

Camphorodine.—Suggested for use by the Principal Medical Officer of her Majesty's Forces in India. The B.P. Committee says "the word 'chlorodyne' does not appear in the British Pharmacopoeia, and it would not be desirable to employ the word 'camphorodine'." The article, however, might be made official, if at all, under the name of 'Tinctura Chloroformi et Camphoræ Composita.' It is desirable, however, that any such official compound should have more than absolute local use. Information should be afforded as to whether camphorodine is used in diarrhoea and colic over a wide area." [This we take to be "C. Chlorodyne," for which the formula is given in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 459.]

Catechu Nigrum.—Black catechu. Extract of *Acacia Catechu* wood. Characters and tests given. India suggests this extract, also one of *Areca Catechu* fruit, as substitute for catechu B.P. Doubtful if *Areca Catechu* required. Preparations as catechu. [Compare CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1899, page 50L. The areca extract is known as Bombay catechu.]

Cissampelos.—Root of *Cissampelos pareira*, L. Proposed by India as substitute (with preparations) for B.P. *pareira brava*. Characters given. [This is "False Pareira Brava," probably as good medicinally as the true.]

Coscinum.—Stem of *Coscinum fenestratum*, Col. Instead of calumba for India. Characters and test given. Preparations, infusion, liquor conc., and tinctura, as calumba. [Practically the same chemically and medicinally as calumba.]

Crinum.—Bulb of *Crinum asiaticum*, var. *toxicarium*, Herberts. A substitute in India for squill, with similar preparations. Characters given. [N.O. *Anuryllideae*. A common Indian plant, the bulb of which is undistinguishable medicinally from squill.]

Cinnamomi Lignum.—Cinnamon-wood. [Nepal sassafras. *Cinnamomum glanduliferum*, Neiss. As substitute for sassafras in India. The committee invites a description of the wood. [The essential oil of the wood, like that of Japanese camphor-tree, contains safrol; hence the odour.]

Datura Folia.—Leaves of *Datura fastuosa*, L., var. *alba*, Nees, and *Datura Metel*, L. Characters given. India wishes to substitute, this for stramonium, and King wishes it additional. Tincture to be made as tr. stramonii, 1898.

Datura Semina.—Seeds of the first species only. For India characters given. Tincture as tr. stramonii, 1885. [These are both official in the "Pharmacopoeia of India." They are similar, chemically and medicinally, to stramonium.]

Duboisia.—Leaves of *Duboisia thyrsoides*, R.Br. Characters given. Queensland wishes this and the alkaloid duboisine recognised; Victoria the leaves and a tincture and ointment, also calling attention to the *Duboisia Hopwoodii* (Pitury). The committee advise the colonials to reconsider the recommendations in the light of recent observations on the mydriatic alkaloids, and the recognition of hyoscyamine and hyoscyne by the B.P. Duboisine is sometimes one or other of these alkaloids, or both. [See CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1899, pages 498 and 510, atropine and hyoscyamine, the paragraphs covering what the pamphlet says. Duboisia is a decided favourite in Australia, and its recognition is looked for. Perhaps the *Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* will take a vote of the trade on the matter.]

Embelia.—The fruit of *Embelia ribes*, Burm. Wanted by

India as a substitute for kousso and male fern. Characters given. What preparations require? (Common Indian p. 2.) The infusion is given for tapeworm with success.]

Eucalypti Gummi. Victoria wishes the gum of *Eucalyptus rostrata* recognised, and formulae for a suppository, syrup, tincture, and lozenge given. This gum is one of those already recognised by the B.P. for a lozenge; but the committee wants to know why *E. rostrata* should alone be recognised. [See C. & D. DIARY, 1899, page 505.]

Euphorbia Pilulifera.—Victoria wishes this, with preparations. Is there sufficient evidence of its value to render its admission advisable? [The B.P.C. should have something to say about this. It has a 1-in 5 proof-spirit tincture.]

Exacum. Dried plant of *Exacum bicolor*, Roxb. Characters given. Wanted by India as a substitute for chiretta, for which it is sometimes sold in India, and is known as "country chiretta".

Extractum Glycyrrhizæ Spirituosum. Hong Kong wishes the liquid extract to be made from Spanish juice by dissolving 10 oz of it in water, adding 5 oz alcohol, and making up to the pint.

Foeniculi Fructus. Suggested in India that Indian fennel [*Foeniculum vulgare*] should be used in place of B.P. fennel in pulv. glycyrrhizæ co. Victoria also wants this as well as *Foeniculum officinale* recognised. Descriptions and specimens are wanted.

Glycyrrhizæ Radix. India wishes the root of *Abrus precatorius* recognised as liquorice-root, but the *Pharmacographia Indica* view being against this the B.P. Committee says "it would seem better not to recognise the root." [This root possesses many of the sensible properties and medical qualities of true liquorice-root" (Waring). Kanny Lall Dey also says so.]

Gossypii Radicis Cortex. Cotton-root bark (*Gossypium herbaceum*, L.). Characters given. Wanted by India as substitute for ergot. What preparations? Liquid extract is in U.S.P.

Grindelia.—Victoria suggests recognition of *Grindelia robusta*, Nuttall, and its preparations, and the committee provisionally describes this herb and *Grindelia squarrosa*, Dunal. What preparations? [*G. robusta* is in the U.S.P., and the B.P.C. gives a formula for fluid extract of it.]

Gummi Indicum.—A gummy exudation from *Anogeissus latifolia*, Wall. Characters and tests given. [This is Ghatti gum, a pale, partly vermicular and tough gum which is commonly obtainable, and makes a good mucilage, giving twice as rise as a mucilage as B.P. gum.] Consequently the committee recommends the mucilage to be made half-strength.

Ispaghula.—Seeds of *Plantago ovata*, Forsk. For India in place of linseed for infusion and pearl-barley for decoction. Characters given. [Spogel-seeds; much used in India for making demulcent drinks to be used in diarrhoea and dysentery.]

Jasminum, syn. Mogra.—Flowers *Jasminum Sambac* (Ait.) for India as a lactifuge. [The bruised leaves are applied to the breast (Kanny Lall Dey).]

Mudar.—Root-bark of *Calotropis procera* (R.Br.) and *C. gigantea* (R.Br.), for India as substitute for ipécacuanba. Characters and tests given. Is the name satisfactory? What preparations? [Much esteemed in India. The "Pharmacopoeia of India" prescribes the powdered drug in 8 to 10 gr. doses as a tonic, and 30 to 60 gr. as an emetic.]

Mylabris.—The beetle *Mylabris phalerata*, Fallax, dried. Characters given. India wants this, or, rather *Mylabris cichorii*, as substitutes for cantharides. Preparations as the latter. Committee selects the above species, as both kinds exist in commercial specimens, and the selected one is the larger. [This is Chinese cantharides, known in India as the 'Telini fly, and of common occurrence there.]

Myrobalanum.—Fruits of *Terminalia Chebala*, Petz, to be used in India instead of galls, with same preparations as the latter.

Oleum Ajowan.—Oil distilled from fruit of *Carum copticum*, B. & H. Characters given (sp. gr. 0.917-0.930 sp. rot. +1-15. Yields 30-38 per cent. thymol on cooling) India suggests this to take the place of anise, carraway, dill, and peppermint oils. The committee points out the difference in the chemical composition, and asks specimens (recently drawn in India) to be forwarded.

Oleum Arachidis.—Oil expressed from seeds of *Arachis hypogea*, L. Characters given. May be employed in Indian pharmacy whenever olive oil is ordered in B.P. preparations, but the committee wants information as to the success or otherwise resulting. [This proposal is not said to emanate from India. See Ol. Sesami.]

Oleum Graminis Citrati. (Syn. Indian verbena oil).—Oil distilled from *Andropogon citratus*, DC. Characters given (sp. gr. 0.875-0.905. Sol. in 70-per-cent. alcohol. Sp. rot. $\pm 5^\circ$, &c.). Suggested by India as substitute for ol. cajuputi in lin. crotonis and for ol. lavand. in lin. camphor. co. Committee questions this, pointing out difference in composition. Might be recognised for its own sake. [Lemongrass oil is used in India as a rubefacient. Hence the recommendation.]

Oleum Sesami.—Expressed from ends of *Sesamum indicum*

DC. Characters and tests given. This is the oil selected by the Indian Government Committee as a substitute for olive oil. The B.P. Committee prefers nut oil, admitting that sesame oil seems to be well suited for lin. ammon.

Samadera.—Wood and bark of *Samadera indica*, Gärtn. Characters given. As a substitute in India for quassia. Which should be used, bark or wood? Report on preparations of both. [Contains the same bitter principle as quassia. Dymock recommends the wood.]

Sappan.—Heartwood of *Cæsalpina Sappan*, L. Characters and tests given. The Indian Government Committee's idea of what should be used in India for logwood, and its decoction. [A Bengal product. Contains a principle not unlike hæmatein, and has powerful astringent properties.]

Swertia.—Dried plants of *Swertia affinis*, Clarke, and *S. corymbosa*, Wight. India wishes these to be equivalents of *chirella*. Characters given. Should the preparations be as andrographis?

Thus Indicum.—Semi-solid oleo-resin of *Pinus longifolia*, Roxb. Characters given. To take the place in India of B.P. frankincense, but as it is softer the formula of emp. picis may have to be adjusted. [This is the Chir pine product, and is very common in India.]

Tinospora.—Stem of *Tinospora cordifolia*, Miers. Characters and tests given. India recommends this as substitute for calumba, with similar preparations. ["Gulancha" is the commonest native name. It is esteemed as a bitter tonic, and is in the *Pharmacopæia of India* (the whole herb), with extract, infusion, and tincture. Popular in India.]

Toddalia.—Root-bark of *Toddalia aculeata*, Pers. Characters and tests given. India recommends this to replace cusparia and its preparations. [N.O. *Rutaceæ*. Contains berberine and an essential oil, one of the constituents of which is citronellal. Infusion and fluid extract are used in India. Not unlike cusparia in medicinal properties.]

Tylophora folia.—Leaves of *Tylophora asthmatica* W. & A. Characters given. As a substitute in India for ipecacuanha. ["This and other substitutes for ipecacuanha are now seldom employed in India, except in domestic medicine" (Kanny Lal Dey). Called "country ipecacuanha."]

Valeriana Rhizomæ Indicum.—India wishes to substitute the rhizome and rootlets of *Valeriana Leschenaultii*, DC., var. *Brunoniana*, W. & A., for B.P. valerian. No specimens of it here. Send some, and say what preparations are required. [Grows on the Nilgiris. The rhizome of *V. Wallichii*, DC., is perhaps better known in India.]

It should be clearly understood that the suggestions are for the use of the drugs locally. The remarks in brackets [] are our own; all the rest is abstracted from the pamphlet. Should any Indian subscribers prefer to communicate their views to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST we shall be pleased to receive them. Australian subscribers may secure the best expression of colonial opinion by writing to the *Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*.

Trade Tabs.

DRUGS to the value of 5,682*l.* were exported from Nagasaki Japan, in 1897, as against 5,871*l.* in 1896.

THE HAYTIAN LEGISLATURE have recently reduced the duties on soap by one-half—viz., to 50c. per 100 lbs.

THE NATIONAL PURE FOOD AND DRUG CONGRESS will hold their next annual meeting on January 18, 19, and 20 at Washington, Col.

THE imports of opium to the Straits Settlements in 1897 decreased by 769 chests. Patna opium fell from 525 in 1896 to 276 in 1897.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES to the value of 13,937*l.* were exported from the port of Bunder Abbas, Persian Gulf, as against 9,380*l.* in 1896.

EXPORTS in 1897 from the port of Lingah, Persian Gulf, included drugs and medicines 2,258*l.* (1896, 3,400*l.*), and perfumery 406*l.* (1896, 518*l.*).

FROM April 1, 1899, carbide of calcium will be allowed to enter Norway free of duty, on the ground that that country will possibly produce and export large quantities of this article.

THE *Englishman* reports that the French authorities have imposed on goods from Burmah an import-duty of 50 per cent. *ad val.* It is understood that similar duties will be imposed in French Laos as against Siam.

General Medical Council.

HORSLEY v. OFFICIALISM.

THE meeting began on Thursday, November 24, with a little skirmish between Mr. Horsley and the President, in respect of the refusal to furnish a medical friend of his with a programme of the business before the Council on the previous day. It is obviously impossible for anyone to follow what is going on unless fortified with this key to the labyrinth, but for some inscrutable reason the officials have been instructed to depart from time-honoured custom in this respect, and even representatives of the Press have had a difficulty in obtaining copies of the documents in question. Mr. Horsley was informed that the programmes were "confidential," but he sturdily refused to admit that they could properly be regarded as such, and the matter is likely to crop up again later on, when it is to be hoped this vexatious restriction will be disposed of.

The Council then proceeded to adjudicate upon the case of

MR. FREDERICK MERCER,

of Antill Road, E, respecting whom a complaint had been made by Mr. Alfred Henry Parker, in regard to the employment of an unqualified assistant; but the evidence was not conclusive, and the Council found the charge "not proven." The next proceeding was to take cognisance of the certificate of conviction of

MR. JOHN LLOYD WHITMARSH,

whose sentence of death has recently been commuted into one of twelve years' imprisonment. The erasure of his name from the register was a mere formality, the defendant not being in attendance to allege anything in extenuation of his crime.

UNPROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING.

The Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association charged one Frederick Alfred Fisher with inserting in various newspapers advertisements of a nature "grossly discreditable to a medical practitioner." It seems that this naughty person had been busily engaged in tooting a certain dispensary for nervous debility situate in the City Road, and he is presumably so conscious of the indefensibility of his offence against professional ethics that he did not even take the trouble to appear to defend himself. The statutory declarations were read and proved the case, and Mr. Fisher's name will in future cease to grace the pages of the Medical Register.

This exhausted the energies of the Council for the day. The first item on the programme on Friday was

A WELSH "COVERING" CASE,

Jones v. Jones, one Jones being called John (he was the complainant) and the other James Havard (the defendant). The circumstances were somewhat interesting.

It seems that one Jenkins, technically described as "an unqualified person," has long rejoiced in the esteem of the colliers and works of a certain district in Wales. We hesitate to attempt to spell the name of the place; but it was something like "Ogof," situated in the vale of Llandyssil. We gather that Jenkins was at one time practising as the assistant of the complainant practitioner, but since the Council have introduced an element of danger into too close a relationship between practitioners and unqualified persons (other than their wives), Dr. John Jones determined to separate himself from his assistant. When he had done this, he found that his glory among the collier population had departed, and he was fain to send in his resignation as works doctor. Thereupon, after sundry negotiations, Dr. James Havard Jones accepted the invitation to apply for the vacant appointments, and he was ultimately appointed, apparently with the approval, and thanks to the support, of the influential Mr. Jenkins, whose house he proceeded to inhabit, and with whom he contracted for board and lodging, plus the use of the stock-in-trade of drugs and the use of the pony and trap, for 15*l.* monthly.

It was alleged that since that time Jenkins had been engaged in carrying on his practice with the aid and under the mantle of Dr. James Havard Jones, but it is only fair

to add that this was strenuously denied by him and by Jenkins. Moreover, the telegrams produced contained a stipulation that Jenkins should unconditionally and absolutely withdraw from the practice. There were some funny little discrepancies between the evidence of these two gentlemen—as, for instance, in reference to the ownership of the pony and trap. Dr. Jones stated that he had purchased these and was paying for them by instalments, such instalments being included in the 15% monthly. He could not, however, say how much of this sum was allocated to the purchase, nor the price thereof, nor when the purchase would be complete. Mr. Jenkins, on the other hand, scoffed at the idea that anything had been paid on account, but this is a matter which the two must be left to settle elsewhere. It seemed pretty well established that Jenkins used to accompany Dr. Jones on his rounds, sometimes, apparently, to help in some form, sometimes as friend. He even used to accompany him into the houses of patients, but never, he solemnly affirmed, with the object of advising medically—indeed, when Dr. Jones was attending a confinement upstairs, Mr. Jenkins complacently waited from 10 P.M. until 2 A.M. in the kitchen. The case occupied the whole of Friday and part of Saturday, and after a long deliberation *in camera*, the Council found the charge “not proven,” so the respective Joneses can hark back to Wales, there to become reconciled if only Jenkins will stay away.

THE JUDICIAL WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

The rest of Saturday, which is a short day, was devoted to the discussion of certain Standing Orders. In respect of the Penal Case Committee it was proposed to obviate the changes associated with annual election by electing fresh members only on the retirement by death or otherwise of its present members.

This was met by a motion brought forward by Mr. George Brown in favour of abolishing the committee altogether in favour of delegating the duties now performed by it to the several branch councils. His idea apparently was to prevent the management of the penal cases falling into the hands of a clique, but after an animated discussion the Council decided against the change by a large majority.

THE PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

This week's business commenced on Monday with an attempt by Mr. Horsley to draw the attention of the Council then and there to the procedure of the Penal Cases Committee in regard to the Hunter appeal case which was then pending (this was one of the cases in which a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries was fined for using the titles physician and surgeon), but the Council by a large majority refused to be “drawn.”

The recommendation of the Executive Committee, quoted above, that to prevent too much change in the constitution of this committee, vacancies be filled as they occur; in other words, that the members be not subjected to the ordeal of re-election as with other committees was discussed. This was interpreted by many members as an endeavour to keep the penal jurisdiction in the hands of a chosen few, and it was rejected in favour of an amendment by Sir Richard Thorne, providing that the committee should be elected annually in May.

Sundry other alterations of standing orders were then agreed to subject to the approval of the law-officers, and the Council then proceeded to discuss

THE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

This is a very interesting document, because it deals with the vexed question of the standard of general education required of intending medical students.

Sir John Batty Tuke, on behalf of the committee, explained that they had been “animated by the strongest desire to raise the standard of preliminary education.” Beyond the expression of this pious opinion, however, the committee did not think it wise to go, fearing that any raising of the standard might have for effect to “seriously deplete” the medical profession. By way of solatium he “hoped the day was not far off when the Council would be able to cut down their examinations.”

This simply means that the committee are determined to persist in the policy of prancing instead of galloping. The Council has been talking of raising the standard any time

during the last twenty years, but have always postponed the absolute plunge.

The disappointment of many members found expression in the course of a protracted debate. Dr. MacAlister admitted that the examination of the College of Preceptors was not up to the standard of the local university junior examinations, and, seeing that the latter can easily be passed by an average lad of 14, it was evident that very moderate attainments in general education are sufficient to satisfy the Council. Dr. MacAlister added that communications had been sent to the various bodies stating that it was the wish of the Council that the standard of the junior examinations should be gradually raised, and he hoped that within five years it would be possible to adopt a standard which would be called a senior standard.

Sir Richard Thorne complained that the committee seemed to have worked under a misapprehension, for he believed the Council had asked the committee to report on the removal of examinations inferior to the matriculation. He urged that if candidates knew the standard to which they had to work there would not be one-half the rejections.

The debate was adjourned on Monday, and resumed on Tuesday by

Dr. Leech, who opined that the second-class examination of the College of Preceptors must be struck out as being inferior to other junior examinations. He believed they all felt that it was not creditable that they should accept examinations almost limited to schoolboys for entrance into the medical profession. He expressed his disappointment with the report, and hoped the Council would do something courageous and more in accordance with the necessities of the times and of the profession.

Sir Christopher Nixon agreed that the College of Preceptors' examination was inadequate. He hoped the Council would take a strong part in recommending the establishment of an examination by the Intermediate Education Board of Ireland suitable for medical students.

Mr. Brudenell Carter was also disappointed with the report, because it fixed no definite time for the transition to the senior standard, and he pointed out that if the second-class College of Preceptors examination was insufficient the fault lay with the Council for accepting it.

Dr. Atbill, in reply to Mr. Tichborne, stated that the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland would willingly desist from holding their Preliminary examination when the Council had instituted a proper standard, a statement in which Sir Philip Smyly concurred.

After much more discussion, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Executive Committee to report to the Council next session as to the earliest date at which it will be practicable to raise the minimum requirements of the Council as regards preliminary education to the senior standard.

MIDWIVES COMMITTEE BILL.

On the report of the Midwives Bill Conference Committee Sir Richard Thorne pointed out that the Council could not use its fees for the purpose of this Bill, and on this being represented to the Privy Council, they had been requested to give an estimate of the probable expense which would have to be met by a Government grant. The committee further recommended that the matter should be dealt with by a special committee, after the example of the Dental Committee, to meet twice yearly at the same fees as those now paid to members of the Executive and Dental Committees.

On the suggestion of the President it was resolved to wait and see what form the Bill would take, and the committee was reappointed to watch any legislation on the subject.

REPORT OF THE COMPANIES' ACT AMENDMENT COMMITTEE.

This report, which was summarised in the opening remarks by the President referred to in last week's issue, was received and adopted. The Bill therein referred to was then read *in camera*, and then the committee was reappointed to continue its beneficent work.

THE MICHIGAN PRELIMINARY DECLINED.

In the discussion on a report of the Students' Registration Committee on Exceptional Cases, the Council declined to endorse a recommendation to accept the Preliminary examination of the University of Michigan, in the case of an applicant for registration.

New Companies & Company News.

THE OPHIRTON PHARMACEUTICAL AND CHEMISTS' SYNDICATE (LIMITED) has been registered in Pretoria with a capital of 250*l*.

WILLIAM STRETCH (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000*l*., in 5*l* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of an aerated and mineral water manufacturer carried on by Wm. Stretch, at Uttoxeter.

STORRY, SMITHSON & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 40,000*l*., in 10*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of "Storry, Smithson & Co.," of Hull and elsewhere, and to carry on the business of varnish, paint, colour, and grease manufacturers and merchants, oil boilers and refiners, seed-crushers, &c.

JOSEPH HARDY (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l*., in 1*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on as "Joseph Hardy," at 16 Mercer Street, Hulme, Manchester, and to manufacture, sell, and deal in sauces, sausages, vinegar, preserved provisions, essences, condiments, chemicals, patent medicines, &c. Registered office, 16 Mercer Street, Hulme, Manchester.

J. E. FITTON (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000*l*., in 1*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of J. E. Fitton, and to carry on the business of glue, size, gelatin, grease, manure, and starch manufacturers and merchants, chemists, chemical-manufacturers, drysalts, &c. Registered without articles of association. Registered office, Stubley Mills, Little-borough, near Manchester.

NORRINGTON, HINGSTON & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l*., in 1*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of "Norrington, Hingston & Co.," of Netham, St. George's, Bristol, to adopt an agreement with Frederick Norrington, Ernest A. Hingston, and William Proctor, and to carry on the business of artificial manure and fertiliser manufacturers, chemical-manufacturers, chemists, farmers, cattle-dealers, &c.

FLINTINE DENTAL COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000*l*., in 1*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by George and Jane Popplewell, at 93 Langsett Road, Sheffield, and to carry on the business of dentists, artificial-teeth manufacturers and adapters, photographers, photographic publishers, dental-tool manufacturers, chemists, druggists, cork-merchants, &c. Registered without articles of association.

NEW ELECTRO CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000*l*., in 1*l* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of electricians, electrical, mechanical, civil, marine, metallurgical, and chemical engineers, chemical-manufacturers, suppliers of electricity, &c. Subscribers include L. Schramm, electrical engineer, of Belgrave Road, Hampton-on-Thames, J. Phillips, electrician, of 148 Great Dover Street, S.E. &c.

MINCASEA (INFANTS' FOOD) (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l*., in 1*l* shares. Objects: To acquire the secret process of manufacturing the medico-scientific infants' food discovered by the late T. B. Brooke and the registered trademark, "Mincasea," and to carry on the business of infants'-food manufacturers, meat food, extract, and essence manufacturers, farmers, stock-breeders, meat-preservers, biscuit-manufacturers, chemists, &c. Registered without articles of association.

LEMAN STREET DRUG-STORES (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l*., in 1*l* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, drysalts, oil and colour men, and makers of and dealers in proprietary articles. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—Arthur J. Flegg, 3 Wells Street, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., clerk; Charles F. Stahlecker, 49 Aberdeen Road, Highbury, merchant; Martin A. G. Kahle, druggist, and Mrs. Hedwig Kahle, 127 Leman Street, Whitechapel; Alexander Herle, 8 Christopher Street, Finsbury, E.C., merchant; Otto Mauer, 101 Higham Hill Road, Walthamstow, clerk; M. Morten, 142 Liverpool Road, N., provision-merchant. Registered without articles of association.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL HALL (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l*., in 5*l* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business

of a medical botanist, herbalist, drug-dispenser and chemist; fancy-goods dealer carried on by Thomas Trainer, at 14 Price Street, Liverpool. The first subscribers are:—Thomas Trainer, 14 Price Street, Liverpool, herbalist (5 shares); Henry R. Garnett, 22 Butler Street, Liverpool, commission agent (5 shares); Edward Seward, 31 Job Street, Liverpool, naturalist (1); Arthur H. Bleackley, 51 Upper Bean Street, Liverpool, draper (1); William Seward, Job Street, Liverpool, naturalist (1); Catherine Trainer, 14 Price Street, Liverpool, herbalist (5); Charles Bleackley, 51 Upper Bean Street, Liverpool, clerk (1). Registered without articles of association.

TOWER TEA (LIMITED).—An interim dividend of 7½*d*. per share will be paid on December 1.

THE BRITANNIA WORKS COMPANY (LIMITED).—The directors report that after payment of working-expenses, directors' fees, income-tax, &c., and making provision for doubtful debts, the net profit for the year's trading is 54,612*l*. 15*s*. 1*d*. They recommend a dividend on the ordinary share capital at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, from May 17, the date when the new company was incorporated.

THE BRITISH CO₂ COMPANY (LIMITED).—On the application of the sole debenture-holder in this company, and with the consent of the company, Mr. Justice Kekewich last week ordered the appointment of Mr. Wallace, the applicant, as receiver and manager. Counsel said there was jeopardy in that creditors were threatening to take proceedings against the company. This company worked a secret process, known only to the plaintiff director and the manager.

LAWES CHEMICAL-MANURE COMPANY (LIMITED).—In the Chancery Division, on November 29, an unopposed petition for the alteration of this company's memorandum of association was submitted by Mr. Ingle Joyce, who stated that the company was incorporated in May, 1872, with an original capital of 600,000*l*., subsequently increased to 700,000*l*. by the issue of 100,000*l*. in preference shares. Later, again, for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the Stock Exchange, the capital of the company was reduced to 400,000*l*., at which it now stood. Debentures to the amount of 200,000*l*. had also been issued. It had recently been discovered that the company's freehold land at Barking Creek contained clay suitable for the manufacture of bricks, tiles, and pipes. The company had sufficient capital to work the clay, and the object of the petition was to extend the powers of the company in that direction. Mr. Justice Romer sanctioned the petition.

BOOTS (LIMITED).—The annual meeting of shareholders was held at the George Hotel, Nottingham, on November 30, Mr. Jesse Boot (Chairman and managing director) presiding. In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman congratulated the shareholders on the continued prosperity of the company. He could not say that it had exceeded his expectations, as he always had the greatest confidence in the earning-power of a business conducted on such lines as theirs. That is to say that an extensive business at a very moderate rate of profit is in the long run much more remunerative than cramping trade by the high prices required to be squeezed out of customers on a small turnover to secure a living profit. During the past year they had removed to freehold premises at Loughborough, and also into new premises at Bedford, and have now the best site in the town. Last week they had moved into new premises at Grantham, and he would strongly urge that the company should purchase freeholds in all towns making good progress, and in which rents are advancing. In the continuation of this policy of buying freeholds care is taken in every case that not more than the actual value of the premises as an investment is given, and so great an improvement is made by their fittings, not only to the trade in their own shops, but also to that of the surrounding shops, that if they had the necessary funds and were only an investment company, instead of a trading company, it would pay them handsomely in nearly every case to buy the shops on either side of their premises before commencing business. Customers of Boots (Limited) had increased during the year by 700,000 as compared with the previous year, and nearly every one of their shareholders was also a good customer

of the firm. The company were receiving a large number of applications from old shareholders for preference shares at 29s. each, and for ordinary shares at 39s.; but he thought they would shortly advance the prices. They had now a depreciation fund of 15,000*l.*, and their paid-up capital had increased during the year by 25,000*l.*, and their total assets by 40,000*l.*, while liabilities other than those of paid-up capital had decreased by over 10,000*l.* The dividend had been increased to 12 per cent., and the amount carried forward was sufficient to pay the additional 2 per cent. for the next two years, even if no further increase were made in the profits. One item which gave him particular satisfaction was the addition of 1,000*l.* to the Chemists' Fund, and he had hopes that this fund would yet reach 10,000*l.*, when it would then be one of the best assets of the company. He was convinced that, in order to maintain a good dividend by increasing the turnover, the right thing to do was to give the employes a visible interest in the business such as this fund represented. No definite scheme had yet been formulated for using the Provident Fund, as they wished to have something adequate in hand before drawing upon it, and the sum he mentioned (10,000*l.*) would be necessary to establish such a fund adequately. He was glad to welcome Mr. Duckworth among them again. He quite expected, when he became a Member of Parliament, that he would be unable to rejoin the board, but he had retired from several other business enterprises, and was willing to co-operate with them again.

Alderman Duckworth, M.P., seconded the adoption of the report, expressing his continued belief in Boots (Limited) as a substantial concern, and maintained that it was no discredit to any gentleman to have a share in it.

Mr. Sterk said, with regard to the managers' fund, it would not be likely to give satisfaction to the managers if it only showed money on the balance-sheet. None of the shareholders knew on what basis the fund was to be worked, and he thought it necessary that, after the board had discussed it, they should take the opinion of an actuary on the scheme.

The Chairman replied that the reason nothing had yet been allocated was because they wished to secure a substantial fund. Meanwhile the money was there, and was a good asset of the company.

The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Mr. W. B. Thorpe was re-elected to the board of directors; Messrs. Sharpe, Parsons & Co., Birmingham, were re-appointed auditors of the company; and thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

IDRIS & COMPANY (LIMITED).—The ordinary general meeting of this company was held at the company's office, Pratt Street, Camden Town, N.W., on December 1. Mr. T. H. W. Idris in the chair. There was a good attendance of shareholders. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said many people may have thought that, because of the hot weather at the end of the summer, the season must have been a good one. But this was not the case. May, June, and July were unusually cold months, and it was during those months that their best customers were in London. Since their last report they had paid off their 5-per-cent. debentures, and had issued 70,000*l.* in 4 per-cent. debentures. They might have fairly charged the premium on this conversion over several years, but they proposed to write it off this year's profits. They had also written off depreciation very fully. The ground-lease of their premises had been obtained on very favourable terms. The increased ground-rent was less than the amount required to be added annually to their sinking fund under their old lease. Their Southampton factory had taken longer to complete than they calculated, but it was a satisfactory structure and conveniently situated. The prospects of the Liverpool branch were also good. Mr. Idris then dealt with the balance-sheet in detail, and said they believed the valuation to be below the actual value. The value of their goodwill was at least three times that given in the balance-sheet.

Mr. Adams asked for an explanation of the large amount (25,000*l.*) which was put down in the report as reserve account. The amount represented nearly two years' profits.

The Chairman said that the reserve fund was not divided from the other assets, and in it were included such items as the freehold land and buildings in Wales.

Mr. Adams thought it an unusual proceeding to incor-

porate the reserve fund with other assets, and he would like an assurance from the Chairman that the fund was being put aside from the profits.

This assurance was at once given, Mr. Idris stating that the directors were of opinion that it was more to the advantage of the shareholders to have the money in the company than to have it invested in Consols or some such investment paying a small dividend.

A shareholder said many sympathised with the questions of Mr. Adams as to the reserve account, but the same question had been raised last year, and it was then expressly stated that the reserve account was incorporated in the assets, therefore the directors were not doing anything which the shareholders did not know of. Seeing the splendid result from the year's trading, and only the same dividend as last year, the shareholders had a feeling that they ought to get more at once.

Another shareholder wanted to know what profit had been made in Liverpool and Southampton; but the Chairman replied that in this matter they must trust in the directors. They thought it was not to the interests of the company to disclose things of that sort.

Another gentleman asked whether there was any truth in the rumours which had been afloat for some time of amalgamation with another business.

The Chairman said no arrangement of the kind had been effected. They had been approached by various companies (other than the one to which, no doubt, the gentleman referred), and the matter was under consideration. Further developments in that direction might probably be looked for, but nothing would be done unless the directors were perfectly satisfied that it would be for the benefit of the shareholders at large.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimously carried. The auditors (Messrs. A. J. Hill, Vellacott & Co) were re-appointed, the directors were thanked, and a special vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman.

Trade-Marks Applied for.

Anyone who objects to the registration of a trade-mark must address the Comptroller-General, Patent Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., within a month of the date of publication.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," November 23, 1898.)

The word "HOVIS" is being registered in twenty-seven classes. By the Hovis Bread-flour Company (Limited), Macclesfield, millers.

Device of label bearing crossed crutches (the essential particular), and wording; for a medicine for human use. By S. S. Ryckman, Hamilton, Canada, manufacturer. 211,313.

Device representing the hyssop-plant; for medicated and perfumed soap, and medicated and perfumed soap-extract. By T. Hedley & Co. (Limited), Newcastle-on-Tyne, soap-manufacturers. 217,614 and 217,615.

"SUCAN"; for surgical dressings and sanitary towels. By Robinson & Sons (Limited), Chesterfield, manufacturers. 217,798 and 217,331.

"MENE"; for sanitary towels. By Robinson & Sons (Limited), Chesterfield, manufacturers. 217,330.

"ACELIA"; for oil-cloth. By the Fredk. Cranc Chemical Company, Birmingham, manufacturing chemists. 217,589.

Picture-design; for perfumery and toilet-articles. By J. Crosfield & Sons (Limited), Warrington, soap-manufacturers. 217,051.

"CYGNET"; for perfumed soap. By Lever Brothers, Port Sunlight, soap-manufacturers. 217,214.

Device, and the word "ERASMIC" (the essential particulars); for perfumed soap and a perfume. By J. Crosfield & Sons (Limited), Warrington, soap-manufacturers. 217,311 and 217,312.

"CHRISIE" (the essential particular), and wording; for feeding-bottles. By Hearn's (Limited), Lower Clapton, N.E., glass-bottle manufacturers. 217,873.

POTASSIUM CYANIDE and chloride of lime, for mining-purposes only, are now admitted into Siberia free from duty.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

REDUCTION OF A PENALTY.

LAST October the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland received from Mr. Dougherty (Secretary of the Privy Council of Ireland) a copy of the following memorial, which had been addressed to the Lord-Lieutenant by Mr. James Hogg, chemist and druggist, of Belfast, with a request that the Council would favour his Excellency with their observations thereon:—

1. That your memorialist is a registered chemist and druggist carrying on business at York Street, in the city of Belfast, for over thirty years. 2. That recently his son Samuel Hogg was qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist, and for a short time was in sole charge of a compounding-department on your memorialist's premises where he compounded a few prescriptions until his own shop on the Shankhill Road, Belfast, should be completed. 3. That without any notice whatever the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland issued a summons against your memorialist for keeping his shop open for the sale of medical prescriptions, and your memorialist was on September 29, 1898, fined 5*l.* and 10*s.* 6*d.* costs. 4. That the Resident Magistrate, in giving his decision, made the following remarks:—"That this case was at any rate straightforward and above-board, and there has been no danger to the public health through the action of the defendant. An arrangement between the father and son would have obviated all trouble, but the complainants had made their case that there had been a violation of the Statute and a fine of 5*l.* would have to be imposed." 5. That your memorialist has the sympathy, and is supported in his prayer, of the magistrates and merchants whose names are hereto attached.

A remission or reduction of the penalty was then asked for; and it was stated that the memorial was signed by the Lord Mayor of Belfast and forty-three other gentlemen.

The following letter was, on November 3, addressed by the Registrar of the Council of the Society to the Secretary of the Privy Council:—

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo, my Council desires to thank his Excellency for his consideration in submitting to them a copy of the memorial of Mr. James Hogg and others, of Belfast. They regret that gentlemen charged with magisterial functions should assist in condoning offences against the laws they are expected to uphold, more particularly when the respectability of the offender appears to be the chief motive of their sympathy. My Council respectfully submit that the prayer of the memorial should not be granted, for the following reasons:—(1) Mr. James Hogg is neither a poor man nor an ignorant man. (2) He had been cautioned by order of the Council as far back as the year 1892 against committing the offence of which he has been convicted (*vide* enclosed copy of caution). (3) Offenders in similar cases have been prosecuted and fined in both Dublin and Belfast. (4) If this offence is condoned because his assistant happened to be his son, it would be difficult to distinguish on the merits a case in which the assistant was not the son of the unqualified person. As regards clause 1 of the memorial, Mr. James Hogg was registered as "chemist and druggist" without examination under section 6 of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, Amendment Act, 1890, which does not confer any right to "keep open shop" for the sale or compounding of medical prescriptions (*vide* last clause of section 5), and of these conditions both father and son must have been fully aware. As regards clause 2 Mr. Samuel Hogg was registered a licentiate of the Society on May 10, 1897, and his father has been since then advertising his "dispensing section," as is evidenced by a cutting in the possession of the Council from the *Belfast Witness* of December 24, 1897. As regards clause 3, I enclose copy of caution sent to Mr. James Hogg in 1892; and as to the amount of fine my Council would remind his Excellency that one-third of the penalty belongs to the witness employed by the Society to procure the necessary legal evidence of the offence (*vide* section 36, Pharmacy Act, 1875), and that the costs to the Society far exceed the amount of penalty and costs recovered. As regards clause 4, if the Magistrate's private opinion is to be held as a reason for superseding the law, my Council venture to remind his Excellency that the Magistrate's remarks, as communicated, would apply to any unqualified trader, and would have a very far-reaching range of application. They suggest the possibility of an arrangement between a trader and doctor, or a trader and solicitor. There would be no profession safe under such application of sympathy and private opinion. The fact that the Magistrate was obliged notwithstanding, to acknowledge the supremacy of the law of the realm is my Council's full justification for doing their part

to uphold it. It is one of the difficulties which were anticipated by the Council of the Society in 1890, when the Bill to amend the Act and register this second class of poison-sellers was under consideration. In conclusion, my Council would remind his Excellency that legislation, both by the Irish Apothecaries Act, 1791, and the Pharmacy Act, 1875, as well as the Amendment Act, 1890, require that the person "keeping open shop" "shall be qualified and registered," and that this is the only protection for the public that the Legislature has enacted; and they respectfully pray that his Excellency will give the weight of his high office and influence to support this Society in its endeavour to carry out the law as provided by the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875.

On November 25 the Registrar of the Society received a letter from the Secretary of the Privy Council stating that the Lord-Lieutenant had been pleased to reduce the fine imposed on James Hogg to 2*l.*

At the Counter.

"SCOTCH EEL" and "bottol" are the only mis-spellings which strike us as interesting in a collection from Upton Park.

"ARREWNACKET VINEGER," "baldal manack," "tincture of mare," "fourreth" (fullers' earth), "medicated potash," "feameal pills," and "Hodegolone," are how they spell drugs at Derby.

THIS is the sort of thing Transvaal chemists have to put up with:—

Dear Sir, if you do not com to my Child I wild bring you hup for it I do dont want you do it for mufing what you thing of that
Your—

THE following are sent to us by Mr. Arthur James, of Dymock, as specimens of orders met with in Gloucestershire:—

"A shilling bottle of Scots Evolutshion."

"Plesend by the Barer 3 pennyworth of Spirits asses of thirty-towo."

"For quietin a stone horse.—Oil of man, oil of ooman, oil of Annie, virgins milk 6 penneth of each."

1 box of Ioment.

4 pence for the eich.

The above order, very distinctly written, was interpreted by Mr. Hopkin, at Amphyll, to mean one pennyworth of eye-ointment, and four pennyworth of ointment for the itch.

THE following recipe is highly valued, we are told, in Warwickshire. It is for a horse-powder, and is only parted with to be made up under promise of the utmost secrecy:—

- 8 Dievparit.
- 4 Black voxen.
- 3 Annie seeds.
- 4 Ally conerpaint.
- 5 Liver atonomy.
- 4 Licher powder.
- 6 Gheershen.
- 8 Horse spice.
- 4 Conning seeds.
- 4 Cove annie weds.
- 2 Cast steel soap.
- 2 Blue vitvel.

MR. THOMAS KERR, of Willesden, sends us numerous specimens of local talent, including, as usual, a number of new ways of spelling *vin. ipecac.* Several are veritable puzzles. Perhaps they, too, are *vin. ipecac.* There are "Qyrdbibery powder," "ketchupepe for toothacke," "ovidione," and "magisman." "Uperlitus oil," "perminate of potash," "godfriseorelle for dyer rear," and "canforate corridform" are easy ones.

If any chemist should ever get an order for *ipeacuanha* wine spelt correctly perhaps he will kindly forward it. The variations on the name are legion, and we have long ceased to try to keep pae with them. Mr. George Wright, Chesterfield, sends us several new ones, such as Eppipicket, Eptuine, Epperqueann, and Eeppeny. Other Chesterfield guesses are: "oxlour squils," "seripet off serilles," "parick rock," "daci-lam," "corlara drops," and "sulphurs ink."

Correspondence.

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Notice to Correspondents.

Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

Mr. Arnold Forster, M.P., on the Metric System.

SIR,—I have just read your not unfriendly review of my book "The Coming of the Kilogram." I am glad that in this matter I have the co-operation of a journal which reaches such an important section of the commercial world as THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. There is, however, one point on which I ask leave to take issue with your reviewer. He says, in effect, that I have wasted a hundred pages in explaining the nature of our existing weights and measures, the value and use of decimals, and the theory and practice of the metric system; and he thinks I should have been well-advised if I had confined myself to giving instances of the practical disadvantage which British merchants suffer by reason of the non-adoption of the metric system in the United Kingdom. Your reviewer is of opinion that I have wasted my time in dealing with questions with which everybody is perfectly acquainted. I beg to assure him that he takes far too sanguine a view of the amount of information possessed by the majority of Englishmen. No doubt the readers of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST find the matters which I have mentioned elementary, but, alas! I know too well that they are not elementary to the enormous majority of Englishmen. I must confess it is not to the instructed few that I appeal. In the first place, they are already convinced, and, in the second place, if I may say so, I do not observe that, despite their instruction, they have as yet done a hand's-turn of useful work in the direction of altering the state of things the existence of which they deplore. I am afraid, if I have to wait until those actively engaged in commerce succeed in introducing the metric system on their own initiative, I shall have to wait a long time.

I am convinced that in this, as in many other matters, it will be necessary to go to the mass of the public for the force which is necessary to start a big incubus like our present system of weights and measures down hill into the gulf of things dead and gone. It is on the public at large, and on that portion of it which is still at school in particular, that I rely. I need hardly say, however, that help in a good cause is welcome wherever it comes from, and that if merchants and traders will themselves take the lead in this matter, it will be a great advantage to the community.

In conclusion, may I add that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to receive and utilise to the best of my ability any examples of the injury which is done to British traders by the present system?—and if readers of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST will be good enough to forward to me reports of cases within their own experience, or for which they can personally vouch, I shall be greatly indebted to them.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. O. ARNOLD FORSTER.

9 Evelyn Gardens, S.W., November 24.

Mr. Beecham and the Dewsbury Chemists.

SIR,—The discussion appears now to have drifted into whether the report of the first meeting I sent to the trade papers and to the trade is a correct one. I see the Dewsbury chemists now say "the report was founded on guess-work, and consequently was not correct, but wrong and misleading." This is doing me a great injustice, and I beg your readers will note the following:—

The Chairman (Mr. A. Foster) wrote to me, October 29:—

In reply to yours of the 27th inst., allow me to thank you for the report of the meeting held here on the 20th. I consider it a very true and faithful account. I am only sorry we had such a small gathering, and so little time to discuss the matter more fully.

The Secretary (Mr. R. Gledhill) wrote to me on October 31:—

In answer to your letter dated 27th, I have looked over the report of the meeting which you have sent me. I find it correct to the last paragraph. But since the meeting I have found out that there were members present who were going to support Mr. Barker, and who would have spoken on his resolution had time permitted. However, the matter will be thoroughly discussed at our next meeting, which will be held on Nov. 7th.

Now let those gentlemen who still have copies of that report expunge therefrom the last paragraph, which has acted the purpose of the "red herring" to those interested, to detract attention from the facts given by Mr. Rowed and Mr. Glover, which have not and cannot be refuted. Whether one member did or did not jar the harmony of the meeting does not affect the important facts produced at both meetings as to the position of my business in regard to cutting and the incapacity of the P.A.T.A. to deal therewith. This controversy has made it manifest that there is a "certain section" of the trade which turns a deaf ear to all argument, totally ignores the risk an old manufacturer runs in experimenting with his business, and, while treating the damage already caused to the proprietors of some protected articles as not worth consideration, still blindly clamours for him to go on the protected list. Sir, the good will and support of that section must be an "unknown quantity." In regard to Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, I must again point out that it is not so much in what he says as in what he does not say where you may bottom the shallowness of his position. Take the *Anti-Cutting Record* for November, and look at the garbled report. Less than 300 words of my Mr. Glover's speech are given, when it contained 3,000. The purpose for doing this was that it might be sent broadcast to the address of chemists "or the occupier" in the hope of making capital thereof. An association which will not bear open criticism, and bolsters up its existence by such strategy, is of doubtful value.

I am not to blame for the existence of cutting, nor for co-operative societies or other sources of irritation to anti-cutters. I have my own business to attend to, and as Mr. Broadhead, who was present at the meeting, writes, "Would any man at that meeting act differently to Mr. Beecham if placed in his shoes? No, emphatically no!"

I must not conclude without thanking you for the space you have so readily given to this controversy, especially as I am able to chronicle that I have during November executed many more home orders, and have opened more than double the number of new accounts, than I have done during any one month since I started 5% parcels. That this is so I shall be pleased to give proof to any honorary official of the P.A.T.A. who favours me with a call.

Yours faithfully,

St. Helens, November 25. THOMAS BEECHAM.

SIR—During the discussion on Mr. Beecham's paper, I endeavoured to view the matter from both sides and come to a fair and equitable conclusion. I regret that my opinions are so out of sympathy with the views of my fellow members. At our meeting on November 21, a letter which was published in your last issue was sent to Mr. Beecham. I agree with that letter, except where it is founded on surmise. However, the point I am specially interested in is that I proposed the following resolution:—

That this meeting of the Dewsbury and District Chemists' Association, whilst still supporting and urging the claims of the P.A.T.A., desires to convey to Mr. Beecham its thanks for his courtesy and consideration in endeavouring to check, as far as is compatible with the interests of his business, the extreme cutting of his goods. This Association further considers that Mr. Beecham's initiative should evoke the goodwill of the chemists of the country and be productive of future mutual benefit.

There was no seconder. After the bias which has influenced the discussion I was not surprised, neither do I question the right of our Association to conduct its affairs as the majority decides. But the fact that for "ale" purposes we may soon find Beecham's cut to cost influenced me to desire a fixed limit, however low. I want to sell as many Beecham's pills as I can. Not because I care a jot for Mr. Beecham, but because customers for other goods expect me to supply Beecham's pills at current rates. Now, current rates are set by the cutters. The ugly word

"pander" has been largely introduced into this discussion. I feel that it is base and degrading, and a prostitution of my self-respect, to sell Beecham's pills at a starvation profit, which is an injustice to myself and family. By thus injuring others, and sacrificing my self-respect, I am pandering to the depravity of the public and the commercial immorality of the cutters. This may be a harsh statement, but it is a cast-iron fact. It cannot be altered by the euphemistic phraseology of other Yorkshire chemists. The veiled threats about not encouraging the sale of patent medicines are merely bits of bluff that deceive no one. In my experience of the retail drug-trade, from Mayfair to Mile End, and from Manhattan to Matabeleland, I have never yet met a chemist who encouraged the sale of patents, and Mr. Beecham estimates the goodwill of chemists at its right value. Even in places where they get a good living profit on them, his pills are stocked because they are a necessary evil, though I never had an employer who substituted. I follow the lead of my training, and always supply, without comment, any patent medicine asked for. But even if they were sold at full prices, beyond stocking them, as I do now, I would never, under any circumstances, encourage the sale of Beecham's or any other patent medicine. Of course, I should like 20 per cent. on Beecham's, without prejudice, just as I should like the sale of all drugs to be restricted to qualified chemists, and just as, when a child, I cried for the moon. I do not complain of the decision of our Association, but I recognise the fact that Mr. Beecham was invited by us. Also that, by the irony of fate and the sweetness of advertisement, Mr. Beecham is quite independent of us. Also that he has put himself about to do something for us, and, though it is not as much as we want, he thinks it is as much as is compatible with the interests of his business. Therefore, as the security of even $\frac{3}{4}d.$ a box on Beecham's is something to me, I thank him for his offer, and express my sorrow that my fellow-tradesmen, not being able to teach him his business, should cavalierly decline to accept his offer without thanks. I can quite see how some of our members look at the matter, and if I were as independent as they I would never sell a box of Beecham's under 1s., nor would I have entered upon such a straw-threshing discussion when there are pharmaceutical topics of an academic nature to occupy our time and talents.

Batley.
R. BROADHEAD.

SIR.—It is very amusing to read how concerned the Dewsbury chemists, as well as others, have become over Beecham and his pills. In reply to his circular I advised him that I was not interested in his preparation.

The plan I have adopted has been to keep certainly as good an article always in front of my customers, and to discourage the sale of all goods which do not carry 20 per cent. profit; and it is astonishing how quickly our friends are influenced, while it also brings "grist to the mill."

If my brother-chemists were to devote their abilities to the manufacture of a warm aloetic pill—as well as many other preparations—in opposition to those which do not carry a living profit, I am confident that they would soon be repaid—or at least that is the experience of

Yours faithfully,

JAMES MAURICE.

34 Bedford Street, Plymouth, November 29.

Stale Photographie-goods.

SIR,—Kindly allow me through your columns to appeal to the plate and paper manufacturers to affix to every packet of plates and paper some sign by which the retail-dealer may know date of manufacture of contents. In September this year I purchased from a large wholesale dealers' in Lancashire a small supply of half-plate matt solio. A packet of this was sold a few days afterwards to an advanced lady worker, but she had to return it, as it had gone quite brown with age. On inquiry from the Eastman Company I discovered it had been manufactured in May, 1897.

At the beginning of this month I ordered a supply of Cadett special rapid whole-plates for a professional man. As he complained of undue fogging, I wrote, out of curiosity, to the makers to inquire date of manufacture. This batch was manufactured in August, 1897. If the makers indicated on the package the date of manufacture it would be a great

convenience, as obviously one cannot write to the makers each time a consignment of plates or paper arrives.

Yours faithfully,

Wigan, November 24.

A. H. BENSON. (103/71.)

Acetum Ipecae. B.P.

SIR,—You have a complaint of the development of acetate of ethyl in this preparation. Reasoning from common experience in the manufacture of toilet-vingear, I venture to think a mistake has been made in not directing the diluted acetic acid to be made from the glacial acetate acid, when I should expect to find a great improvement in its keeping-properties. Experiment, however, can best decide whether this is an important emendation. This is just a revival of the old difficulty with acetum scillæ, and the whole subject of the reactions of dilute alcohol on the two strong acids of the B.P. which I think we may assume, from the different descriptions in the B.P., to differ in respect to empyreumatic content seems worthy of consideration. Reference to such a work as "Pereira" is instructive in this connection.

Yours truly,

C. (110,12.)

This Came with a Half-Sovereign.

"An Old Subscriber" (134/49), in sending us his annual 10s. on Tuesday, wrote: "Your weekly journal and DIARY are my business-food, absolutely essential; others are good, but yours surpasses all. 'Pharmaceutical Formulas' is a marvel of production."

Company-chemists.

SIR,—I cannot discover that the Pharmaceutical Society is intending any move in the direction of company-chemists, although one would think that there was a duty before it after so deliberately refusing the chance of last Session.

Every chemist who wishes this glaring injustice rectified should do something himself in the way of getting up petitions, writing to members of Parliament and to local papers. Most people will accept the chemists' view when the matter is clearly explained to them. One thing should be done at once: a league should be formed among the qualified chemists against helping the stores, every man to pledge himself not to take service with such companies, and to use his best influence to prevent others giving them countenance.

FIAT MISTURA.

Dispensing Notes.

This section is intended for the elucidation of dispensing difficulties. Subscribers and their employes may contribute to it, criticising any of the following notes or contributing notes on prescriptions which they have found to be of unusual interest.

Ammonio-citrate of Iron.

SIR,—Ammonium citrate of iron at times gives a certain amount of trouble in dispensing, which is not surprising, considering the loose state in which the iron is combined. From this want of compaction it cannot be called a definite chemical compound with any degree approaching that of other non-scaled preparations: hence its equilibrium is easily upset, and sometimes in a most unexpected manner. Its almost neutral condition, as is the case with the other scale salts, enables it to be easily assimilated, and it is therefore much favoured by the medical profession for such cases as anæmia, chlorosis, and general debility, and these, when accompanied by dyspepsia, can be much benefited by the addition of bismuth, soda, with perhaps nux vomica and calumba, the whole forming a compound which is satisfactory both from a pharmaceutical and therapeutical point of view. Ammonium citrate of iron combined with ammonium carbonate and potassium bromide forms a typical mixture for the many and curious complaints which are characteristic of women when in the climacteric condition. If the mixture is concentrated, some precipitation may take place; but the amount is not sufficient to cause any complaint. It is much used in effervescing-mixtures, and some textbooks state it should be dispensed with the acid portion. This may be all right, providing tartaric acid is used; but if

the citric is ordered the dark solution will, after a few days, assume a light-green colour, much to the alarm of the patient. It is worth remembering that when the mixture is heated the change takes place at once. It is said citrate of iron effervesces with the potassium and sodium bicarbonates. I have not found it do so to any appreciable extent, and therefore have no hesitation in adding the iron to the alkaline solution. The combination of citrate of iron with magnesium sulphate is somewhat unusual. I have made the mixture with salts from two different makers; in each case much precipitate is formed, which, it may interest your correspondents to know, a few grains of citric acid will dissolve up. I have not had the curiosity to test my drugs, because I cannot think of any likely impurity which would cause the decomposition. Is it not possible double decomposition may take place with part of the salts, whereby sulphate of iron and magnesium citrate are formed, much in the same way as happens when sodium bicarbonate is used instead of the iron? The sulphate of iron would soon become oxide, and thus give the muddy appearance.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
G. H. T.

Salicylic Acid in Mixture.

SIR,—Is there any way of dispensing the following without precipitation, and, if not, what is the name of the precipitate?—

Resorcin.	...	...	...	gr. xxx.
Acid, salicylic.	...	...	...	gr. xxx.
Glycerin	...	...	...	ʒij.
S.V.R.	...	...	...	ʒi.
Aque ad	...	...	...	ʒviij.

Misce ut fiat lotio.

T. H. T. (90/29.)

[Salicylic acid is thrown out.]

A Strychnine Mixture.

SIR,—Kindly inform me, through your pages, what is the cause of a deposit in the following (and how to avoid it) after standing a week:—

Strychnine sulph.	...	...	5 centigrammes
Acid, sulph. dil.	...	...	10 gouttes
Aq. destillat.	...	...	150 grammes

Yours truly,
PITCH. (78/63.)

[We cannot account for this precipitation. Some acid salts of alkalis are less soluble than the neutral salts, but the proportion of strychnine sulphate to water is too small in the above case to favour the supposition that an acid sulphate would be precipitated—in fact, much of the commercial strychnine sulphate is the acid sulphate, soluble 1 in 60 or thereabouts. Our correspondent writes from the West Indies. If he used water containing lime, calcium sulphate would be precipitated.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We reply to subscribers and their employes only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper.

Notice to Querists. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

91/16. R. H. — Powders for Worms in Dogs:—

Powdered areca-nut...	...	...	ʒj.
Santonin	...	...	gr. iv.

This is one dose for a dog weighing 60 lbs. and upwards. For a dog of from 15 to 30 lbs. half is sufficient, whilst for a dog of 15 lbs. and under a quarter of the powder is the dose.

78/3. R. F. sends us a portion of a parcel of "nervous debility" cure sent from India to a young man. The contents of the parcel weighed 3 lbs., and cost 4l., and were to be carefully dissolved in 4 pints of boiling water, avoiding

metallic contact, and a dose of a teaspoonful in the morning and two at bedtime to be taken "for ever." We find the "cure" to consist of bromide of potassium mixed with sugar and caramel, the bromide being 50 per cent. of the whole. If "R. F.'s" customer wishes more of the "cure," there will be no necessity to send to India for it nor to pay 4l. for 1½ lb. of bromide of potassium.

83/57. W. H. B. — The "excellent" Ointment for Uleers is zinc ointment.

85/11. *Datum.*—Powder for Bringing Horses into Condition:—

Black sulphur	...	...	ʒiv.
Peroxide of iron	...	...	ʒi.
Armenian bole	...	...	ʒi.

Weigh into ʒi. powders, one of which is the dose for a horse over two years, and half a powder for a yearling.

78/27. J. B.—The sample of Hair-wash is not a very satisfactory thing to analyse. The basis of it is spirit, in the form of a weak rosemary spirit, such as that of the P.L., besides which it contains a little tincture of cantharides. You will not be far wrong if you make up a hair-wash for your customer on these lines, bringing up the colour with a little tincture of saffron.

90/10. W. B.—Your Tooth-powder will be matched by mixing together 1 oz. each of powdered orris-root and myrrh and 2 oz. of precipitated chalk.

91/63. *Newcastle.*—We have examined the two samples you send us, and constructed the following formulas as representing them:—(1) The Hair-wash—

Tincture of quillaia...	...	...	ʒss.
Eau de Cologne	...	...	ʒij.
Honey-water	...	...	ʒij.
Tincture of benzoin	...	...	ʒij.
Ess. bouquet	...	...	ʒij.
Proof spirit to	...	...	ʒx.

(2) The After-shave Lotion—

Eau de Cologne	...	...	ʒiij.
Essence of white rose	...	...	ʒi.
Glycerin	...	...	ʒss.
Proof spirit to	...	...	ʒx.

A little to be applied to the face after shaving.

86/30. *Dandelion.*—(1) Liquid Blister and Embrocation for Horses, resembling your sample:—

Powdered cantharides	...	...	ʒij.
Euphorbium	...	...	ʒj.
Spirit	...	...	ʒx.

Perchlorate.

(2) The Harness-paste you send is made from such a formula as that given in the *C. & D.*, January 22, 1898, page 133.

97/17. *A Student.*—Forty per cent. in individual subjects and 50 per cent. on the whole used to be the requirement of marks in the British Minor Examination, but the Boards no longer go upon the percentage system, although you may take it that the present method comes out about the same.

97/23. *H. H.*—(1) Hygroscopic Powders are protected from damp by storing them in bottles, or less effectually by wrapping in waxed paper, parchment-paper, or tinfoil. (2) The reprint of Dr. Rideal's lecture on sewage-treatment is, we believe, published at 1s.

91/19. *Wardell.*—We do not know the makers of the "Fuse-balls," used for catching rabbits. Some we examined a while ago were made by sprinkling cayenne pepper on thick nitre-paper, and rolling into a sausage shape.

85/23. *Bueril.*—Inhalations of Iodine-vapour are of doubtful value in phthisis and asthma, and often cause considerable irritation which excites exhausting coughing.

86/63. *T. J. J.*—Both the ballroom-floor waxes in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" are good. We have heard such good reports of both of the recipes that we do not feel justified in recommending one over the other.

96/39. *Cathedral*.—(1) Your labels reached us stuck together in a block, so that we cannot answer your first question. (2) A Toning-bath such as the following—

Gold chloride ..	...	...	gr. j.
Sodium acetate ..	...	...	gr. xx.
Water ...	...	...	ʒviij.

—will probably restore the colour of the bleached albumen photograph.

96/41. *Trional*.—You will see particulars of the F.I.C. examinations in the *C. & D.*, September 3, 1898, page 424. The Secretary of the Institute of Chemistry, 30 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., will furnish you with other details.

85/73. *J. W.*—The formulas for ess. vanilla in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" are adapted for either perfumery or culinary purposes.

85/43. *J. G.*—You will need to make a few experiments to find out which of the aniline blues to use for navy-blue straw-varnish.

96/69. *Chemicus*.—(1) You can use a little sticky glucose or glycerin of tragacanth for the roup-pills if you are not able to mass them satisfactorily with balsam of copaiba. (2) We will inquire.

86/25. *Scrutator*.—A mixture of borax and boric acid is usually preferred as a preservative, as it is more soluble, although Kingzett showed that such a mixture was inferior to either of the components separately. A correspondent a little time ago expatiated on the nutty flavour which the mixture of borax and boric acid imparted to cream, which flavour he averred was not given by either borax or boric acid alone.

76/59. *G. E. M.*—The Boot-sole Finish is of the same composition as the one we reported on in the *C. & D.*, November 5, page 766. We were much better able to judge of the use of the sample by the piece of leather you sent.

70/65. *A. Z.*—The preservation of the colour of botanical specimens depends upon the time taken to dry them. If they are quickly dried by pressing between grey filtering-paper, frequently changed, the plants generally retain their natural colours. We once tried a method of placing the specimens in fine dry sand, and heating in an oven; the results were, however, no better than those obtained by simple pressure.

107/12. *Z. Y.*—We do not know of any book on the use and abuse of potassium iodide in syphilis. The work which you mention on the latter subject is as good as any.

80/40. *R. M.*—We have neither time nor space to work out the percentage prescriptions you send.

93/7. *T. M.*—Graph-ink.—See *C. & D.*, April 30, 1898, page 733, or "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 369.

92/73. *Chaleureux*—Aloes is the most-used substance for placing on the finger-nails to prevent children biting them. A more elegant preparation is a strong solution of quinine.

90/35. *F. S.*—Ince's "Latin Grammar" (Baillièrè), 5s., is a Latin grammar especially written for pharmacists, and contains a capital vocabulary at the end.

91/73. *J. M.*—Turner's "Manual of Practical Medical Electricity" (Baillièrè), 7s. 6d., is the book you require.

Information Wanted.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

107/53. Makers of refrigerators suitable for making ice on a small scale.

109/60. "Italia" toilet-paper: where obtainable?

112/59. Present address of maker of "Rainbow" soothers.

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers.

It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges. For fuller particulars see the article "Lowest Trade Terms" in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 19, 1898, p. 475. *C.i.f.* quotations are for London unless when otherwise stated.

Buyers of essential oils are particularly requested to note that low quotations, especially for Sicilian essences, are rarely, if ever, accompanied by guarantee of genuineness.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: December 1.

BUSINESS in some quarters is said to be slow, but generally it is good; indeed, there is a tone of confidence about which helps to make business, and manufacturers are full up with orders. Camphor and quinine hang fire, but cocaine is on the up-grade, and bromides are dearer. New saffron is now selling, and a month hence will be higher in price—in fact, all kinds of Spanish goods are likely to be higher owing to the expected improvement in the Exchange rate consequent on the settlement of affairs between Spain and the United States. The Franco-Italian Convention is also expected to affect the prices of certain produce from Southern Europe—*e.g.*, citric acid—and certainly at the moment the market for that article, and the position of Sicilian essences, justify the expectation. However, it is still too early to say anything definite on that score. The following are the principal alterations noted this week:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Bromides	Cream of tartar	Anthracene
Cascara sagrada	Naphthas	Belladonna root
Cocaine	Oil, star anise	Benzols
Creosote	Pot. pruss., yellow	Cinnamon
Isinglass	Saltpetre	Gentian root
Menthol	Shellac	Oil, castor
Saffron		Oil, cod-liver
		Oil, eucalyptus
		Santonin

Cinchona-cultivation in Ceylon.

In consequence of the increased value of the Succirubra-bark, endeavour is being made in Ceylon to extend the cultivation of cinchona, and especially to obtain from Java the seed of the cinchonas which are richest in quinine. It would be rash to say that the movement will lead to anything, as Ceylon planters have been too severely bitten by their cinchona operations; but as the failure of these was evidently due to their cultivation of inferior barks, it is probable that with Ledgeriana bark, and a moderate amount of Succirubra, they would make more of it now.

Cinchona in India.

Mr. J. A. Robertson, Director-General of Statistics, has recently published his annual report on the cultivation of cinchona in India. He states that during the twelve years ending with 1897-98 the area under cinchona has fallen from 14,491 acres to 4,346 acres. The number of plants in permanent plantations has fallen in the same period from 28,300,000 to a little under 5,000,000. This is owing to the fall in the price of quinine. The quantity of bark collected fluctuates from year to year, but so far as the figures relate to Southern India they have been greatly understated, being in every year except the years 1895-96 and 1896-97 smaller than the quantities recorded as exported thence to countries out of India. Last year the quantity exported and purchased by Government from private plantations was more than 2,250,000 lbs. in

excess of the recorded private production. The figures for Malabar, which relate to only a few plantations, are chiefly at fault, as there the exports exceeded the recorded yield by more than 2,000,000 lbs. The total export in 1897-98 was 3,056,769 lbs., compared with 857,040 lbs. in 1835-86; but the export in 1896-97 only amounted to 321,478 lbs.—the lowest output on record since 1835. The following represents (in lbs.) the amount of bark collected and exported during the period:—

	Madras		Bengal	
	Collected	Exported	Collected	Exported
1885-86 ...	344,158	849,742	223,010	7,298
1886-87 ...	750,478	1,252,328	255,631	32,881
1887-88 ...	856,316	1,397,919	342,410	51,394
1888-89 ...	1,140,302	3,042,084	445,100	32,006
1889-90 ...	827,884	1,854,632	420,705	—
1890-91 ...	1,656,872	2,984,126	416,272	11,719
1891-92 ...	1,473,204	2,692,251	435,560	1,608
1892-93 ...	2,065,177	2,813,637	459,232	—
1893-94 ...	1,170,801	1,665,647	433,010	—
1894-95 ...	1,449,947	1,728,418	577,682	8,900
1895-96 ...	1,532,445	939,938	507,436	—
1896-97 ...	774,284	321,478	717,222	—
1897-98 ...	1,359,738	3,056,769	332,701	—
Average ...	1,192,431	1,892,228	428,152	11,216

Of the bark collected in Bengal in 1897-98 more than nine-tenths (310,715 lbs.) were collected in the Government plantations, and practically all was used for local manufacture. The Government cinchona-factory produced during the year 10,148 lbs. of quinine sulphate and 4,075 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge.

Cablegrams.

NEW YORK, December 1, 3:17 P.M.:—Business has slowed down, and the changes in prices are nearly all downwards. The cheaper articles are: Angostura-bark, 8c. per lb; citric acid, 34c. per lb.; golden seal, 48c. per lb; and cocoa-butter 30c. per lb. On the other hand, cascara sagrada is advancing, and no old bark can be bought under 7½c. per lb., but caffeine has declined in value by 25c.

HAMBURG, December 1, 11:31 A.M.:—Business is quiet here, and there are few changes; but Carnauba wax has commenced to advance, and refined camphor is not obtainable under 295m. per 100 kilos.

Heavy Chemicals.

In miscellaneous chemicals a fairly good and steady business continues to be transacted. On the Tyne and the Clyde the tone is very dull.

ALKALI PRODUCE.—Demand is fair only. Bleaching-powder and caustic soda are still on the easy side. Yellow prussiate of potash is a shade firmer.

COAL-TAR PRODUCTS.—Carbolic acid is not moving very well, and prices may be somewhat lower before long. Recent figures are: Crude, 60 per cent., 1s. 11d.; 75 per cent., 2s. 4½d. per gal. Crystals, 39-40° C., 6¾d.; and 34-35° C., 6¾d. Pitch is now moving better, and price steady at 25s. to 25s. 6d., f.o.b., East Coast. Anthracene has declined; A is now quoted 3¾d., and B grade 2¾d. to 3d. Benzols are also lower at 8½d. for 90 and 50 per cent. Better business has been passing. Aniline oil and salts unchanged, at 4¼d. to 4½d. and 4d. to 4¼d. per lb., respectively. Coal-tar creosote, a shade higher, 2½d. to 3d. Toluol, 1s. 1d. Naphthas are firmer, and heavier business is being done; crude, 30 per cent., 3¾d. to 3½d.; solvent naphtha, 90 per cent., 1s. 2d.; and 95 per cent., 1s. 4d. Solvent wood, colourless, 3s. to 3s. 3d.; and miscible, 4s. 2d. to 4s. 3d.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—Steady. Exports from Leith last week were heavier, and amounted to 457 tons.

PICRIC ACID crystals are moving well at 1s. per lb.

BICROMATE OF SODA.—Unchanged. 2¾d. less 3½ per cent. for English and Scotch deliveries, 2½d. net f.o.b. Glasgow, for export.

BICROMATE OF POTASH.—Unchanged. 3½d. less 3½ per cent. for English and Scotch deliveries, and 3¼d. net. f.o.b. Glasgow, for export.

LINSEED AND COTTONSEED CAKES are moving well, and prices are firm. Cotton cakes, best make, 4l. 6s. 3d., and seconds,

4l. 3s. 9d. Linseed cakes, 95 per cent. pure, 8l., and oilcakes, 7l. to 7l. 5s.

LEAD COMPOUNDS.—Sugar of lead, white, 26l.; brown, 17l. Nitrate of lead, 20l. 10s., all per ton, less 2½ per cent. Glasgow.

Liverpool Drug-market.

Liverpool, November 30.

CASTOR OIL.—Slightly easier. Owing to arrivals good seconds Calcutta has sold from the quay at 2¾d. in quantity; holders now ask 2½d. to 3d.; first-pressure French is steady, 2½d.; second-pressure, 2½d., and Madras in barrels, 2¾d., in quantity.

KOLA-NUTS.—Rather more inquiry, and 2d. is asked for good African.

BEEWAX.—Sales of Gambia are reported at 6l. 7s. 6d.; Chilian is held for 6l. 10s. to 7l. 10s., according to quality. Arrivals slight.

HONEY.—No further supplies from Chili. Stocks firmly held at from 22s. 6d. to 32s. 6d. per cwt. Californian exhausted. The only Peruvian offering is of low grade.

COPPER SULPHATE (COMMERCIAL).—Very firmly held at 18l. 10s. QUILLATA-BARK.—In very firm hands, and has sold at 18l. 10s.

BORAX.—Quotations from dealers are only nominal, as great difficulty is experienced in getting supplies. Crystals are held for 15s., and powder, 15s. 6d. per cwt.

SPINER (RUSSIAN).—Available supplies held for 18s. SPERMACETTI (CHILIAN).—1s. 3d. is asked for good white.

CHILLIES.—20 bags common Sierra Leone sold at 35s. This clears the market of second-hand supplies. Fine bright leaf from 45s. to 50s. per cwt.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—First white French of commercial strength is held at 74s. to 75s. per cwt.

GRAINS OF PARADISE.—Bids under 70s. have been refused.

TURPS.—The advance of last week has been maintained, the value to-day being 29s. 4½d. to 29s. 6d. per cwt.

German Drug-market.

Hamburg, November 29

The drug-market is quiet and shows very little business, most prices being unchanged:—

ANISE (RUSSIAN).—Rather firmer, at 31½m. per 100 kilos.

CAMPHOR (REFINED) has not shown so much business this week, and to-day's quotations are 297½m. per 100 kilos.

CASCARA SAGRADA remains firm, at 48m. per 100 kilos.

COCA-LEAVES are firm and dearer.

MENTHOL is a strong market at 16m. per kilo.

CUMIN (MALTESE) very firm at 65m. per 100 kilos.

ERGOT OF RYE.—Not offering on the spot; Russian is held at 250m. to 300m. in Russia.

GENTIAN.—Easier, at 32m. per 100 kilos.

HONEY.—Firm. New crop Californian arrives slowly and in very small lots. The quality is not up to the 1897 crop.

Light amber held at 74m. to 76m. per 100 kilos.

QUININE unchanged at 28½m. per kilo.

OILS.—Castor is quiet and slow of sale. First pressing in barrels on the spot is 55m.; December, 54m.; January-April, 50m. per 100 kilos. Russian Anise, 13½m. per kilo. Star Anise, 14½m. per kilo. Citronella, 250m. per 100 kilos. Cajuput quiet, 87m. per case. Peppermint, HGH, quiet at 5½m. per lb. Japanese firm at 7½m. per kilo.

TURPENTINE very firm.

American Markets.

New York, November 22

ACONITE-ROOT.—German scarce and at 10c. to 11c. per lb.

ALOES CURACOA.—Scarce. The West Indies report unusually light stocks. Most of the spot stock has been bought up, and 4c. per lb. has been paid for a 2,000-lb. lot. Quotations are strong at 4c. to 4½c.

ALON.—Has further advanced in sympathy, and 40c. to 45c. is asked, according to quality and make.

CAMPHOR.—Has further advanced, and 36½c. per lb. is asked for barrels, and 37c. for cases. Japanese, refined, is also higher, and further advances are expected.

CANTHARIDES.—The market continues bare of Chinese. Russian is firmly held at 50c.

CASCARA SAGRADA continues very strong, and quotations show a slight advance, 6½d. to 7d. being asked, and offerings limited. A lot of bark damaged by water sold last week at 3¾d.

COCA-LEAVES.—Active demand for export has stimulated buying, and prices have been advanced further. Truxillo are quoted 14c. to 15c., and Huanoco 22c. to 24c.

COCAINE has advanced 25c. per oz.

ERGOTIN has advanced in sympathy with the higher value of ergot, and \$2 per lb. is now asked for bulk.

GOLDEN SEAL.—Small sales have been made at 50c. and also at 48c. per lb.; the general tone is easier. Dealers from the West offer at 46c. to 48c., but buyers will not accept.

QUININE.—The demand has fallen off somewhat, but manufacturers' quotations continue firm at 22c. to 24c. for domestic, and 20c. to 22c. for foreign.

STAR-ANISE is moving upward in consequence of export-demand. Sales have been made at 35c. per lb., and quotations are now strong at 35c. The spot stock is limited.

SENEGA-ROOT is easier in view of plentiful supplies. Sales have been made at 24c.

SASSAFRAS OIL is becoming scarce, and 35c. to 36c. is asked for natural, and 32c. to 34c. for artificial. Safrol has advanced to 40c.

VALEMIAN-ROOT has declined to 7c. per lb. in consequence of fresh arrivals.

ORRIS has declined. Stocks are plentiful, and the demand light; 6c. to 7c. is asked for Verona, and 7c. to 9c. for Florentine.

VANILLA continues firm for Mexican and Bourbon varieties. Tahiti has advanced from \$2.25 to \$2.50. Mexican are strong at \$9.75 to \$14 for whole, and cuts are firmly held at \$8.50.

London Markets.

ACID, TARTARIC.—English is steady at 1s. 0½*d.* per lb., on the spot, and foreign at 1s. to 1s. 0¼*d.* per lb., according to quality. The German Convention at a recent meeting agreed not to change the price at present, but to level it up to the English at an early opportunity.

ALOES, CAPE.—An arrival of 100 cases will be put up for auction in whole or part next week. Values in first hands are maintained on the basis of 26s. per cwt. for the best aloes.

ALOES, SOCOTRINE.—During the past fortnight about sixty kegs of good livery have been sold at full prices for the United States.

ARSENIC.—For best white English powder 18*l.* per ton is asked, but little is to be had at this figure and some dealers require 19*l.*

ASAFFETIDA.—Since the auctions about twenty cases of fair broken, part almondy part heavy bloek, with some loose almonds, have been sold at 47s. 6*d.* and 50s. per cwt.

BALSAM, PERU.—In fair demand, at 8s. 3*d.* to 8s. 6*d.* per lb.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—Holders are willing to accept rather easier prices, in consequence of more abundant offers from the Continent, the open weather in some parts of Germany having stimulated collection of the root. Good quality is now obtainable at 38s. per cwt., c.i.f.

BENZOIN.—A fair business has been done during the week in Sumatra, 50 to 60 cases changing hands at 5*l.* to 7*l.* per cwt. for fair almondy seconds.

BORAX.—Last week's quotations are maintained, but makers are not ready sellers. Boric acid is still unobtainable at 24s. 6*d.* for crystals and 26s. 6*d.* for powder.

BROMIDES.—Dearer by 1*d.* per lb. This is reputed to be due to bromine being higher, but really is because the manufacturers having been working at a rather narrow margin of profit, as in the case of iodides, and they are chary of larger advances for fear outside makers should be tempted to cut in. The quotations now are:—Ammonium bromide 2s. 2*d.* per lb., potassium bromide 1s. 10½*d.* per lb., and sodium bromide 2s. 1½*d.* per lb., and a 1*d.* per lb. less for 1-cwt. lots, except in the case of the potassium salt, which is 1s. 10*d.* per lb. for 1-cwt. and 1s. 9½*d.* for ½-ton lots.

CAMPHOR.—The further advance of 1*d.* per lb. which we mentioned last week did not come off as was expected, partly owing to the hesitation of German refiners, who merely quoted forward delivery at ½*d.* per lb. higher, and partly on account of the appearance after Thursday's auction of a large parcel of Japanese refined in cakes for immediate disposal. Until the destination of this parcel was determined it would have been unwise for the refiners to have moved further, but now that the parcel has been disposed of they will resume their consultation. The parcel referred to consisted of 720 cases of ¼-oz., ½-oz. and 1-oz. tablets, and was sold for export at less than 1s. 4*d.* per lb. It is stated that it has been bought on behalf of German refiners, also that it has been bought on account of America, but the selling-brokers decline to say. Anyway, the fact that it has gone abroad has given firmness to the home market for refined.

Another large lot of Japanese refined in 1-oz. and 2-oz. tablets can be had at 1s. 4*d.* per lb. The crude market is also firm, but quiet. Business has been done in Japanese at 107s. 6*d.* per cwt. e.i.f. Hamburg; here the price is 107s. 6*d.* to 110s. c.i.f.; and in Chinese there are buyers at 100s. e.i.f. The shipments from Canton and Hong-Kong to the Continent from January 1 to October 29 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Boxes ...	14,232	22,783	19,544	18,282

Stock in Hong-Kong on October 28, 4,000 cases.

CARDAMOMS.—Since the auctions a fair business has been done privately at rather better prices. Arrivals have been light lately, but stocks are heavy. The exports from Ceylon from January 1 to November 8 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	419,405	414,884	308,235	294,671

CHAMOMILES.—For new Belgian flowers quotations range from 63s. to 70s on the spot for good, according to holder; old crop are obtainable from 50s. to 60s., while for bold French, which are in limited demand, as much as 84s. is required.

CHIRETTA.—For fair quality, which is very scarce, 9*d.* is reported to have been paid this week.

CINCHONA.—Privately in London sales are steady both in quantities and values. The total amount of bark to be offered at Amsterdam on December 8 is 685,568 kilos., containing the equivalent of 32,886 kilos. sulphate of quinine, of which the manufacturing-bark contains an average of 5.25 per cent., against 5.30 per cent. at the November auctions, and an average of 5.73 per cent. for the ten auctions of 1897. The lower percentage is partly accounted for by the fact that a considerable portion of the offerings has been gathered together from all quarters, and does not represent recent imports. Much interest centres round the sale, as it is hoped that the alkaloid manufacturers will declare new prices upon the basis of the unit obtained. It is expected that the purchases will be large if prices are moderate.

CINNAMON.—The quarterly sales held last Monday proved disappointing to the importers. The quantity offered was large (about 4,000 bales), and the buyers had it very much their own way, with very little resistance on the part of the sellers. The result was that most of the catalogues were cleared at prices showing a reduction of 1*d.* to 2*d.* per lb on good and fine qualities, and ½*d.* to 1*d.* on common descriptions, as compared with the rates obtained at the last sales.

COCAINE.—On Tuesday, Morson advanced the price of hydrochloride to 10s. 9*d.* per oz. in 100-oz. lots. Other brands followed suit, but some makers are not quoting because they have orders enough, and they expect higher prices later. In second-hands business is being done at lower rates. The crude-market is very firm, at 260m. per kilo.

COCA-LEAVES.—Sound Truxillos have sold this week at 10½*d.* per lb, which is slightly higher than the last sales reported. The shipments from Java from July 1 to September 30 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894
Bales	275	305	180	255	119

COLCHICUM.—Corm has been sold this week at 32s. per cwt. spot; 45s. is asked for seed.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—A fair amount of business has been done this week, and about 6*d.* higher is asked all round. Ordinary white crystals (92 per cent.) are quoted at 73s., and powder, 75s. 6*d.* to 76s. per cwt.; 95-per-cent. crystals is 76s. to 76s. 6*d.*, and powder 78s.; 99-per-cent. to 100-per-cent. powder, 81s. per cwt. The Bordeaux price is also dearer—viz., 71s. net., f.o.b.

ERGOT still keeps firm; 2s. 3*d.* has been paid for ordinary part weevilly Spanish, and 2s. 4*d.* c.i.f. for new ditto. An arrival of the latter is also reported for which more money is wanted. Russian is slow of sale, chiefly owing to a Hamburg report which has been circulated to the effect that the Russian crop is pretty good in quantity but of unascertained quality. Good sound is obtainable on the spot at 1s. 5*d.* to 1s. 6*d.* per lb., but is weak.

GALLS.—Quiet and unchanged. Parcels of blue Persian in first hands are held off the market, and for second-hand lots high rates are asked. Supplies of blue Smyrna are moderate, but no business is doing.

GAMBOGE.—Thirty cases of mixed Siam pipe have arrived this week, and will be offered in the next auctions.

GENTIAN.—Without demand, and holders would be glad to do business at 17s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot.

GLYCERIN.—Firm, but quotations unchanged. We are officially informed that at a meeting of the Glycerin Association, held at the Exchange Station Hotel, Liverpool, on November 23, it was decided to withdraw the 1-per-cent. brokerage on sales of glycerin hitherto allowed by members of the Association. The prices of the Association for chemically-pure glycerin will remain as fixed at the last meeting—viz., 48l. 10s. for 1-ton lots naked, extras in tins and cases, and prices for larger and smaller quantities according to Association rules. Discount, 2½ per cent. in fourteen days, delivered free. The price, in tins, is 51l. 10s. per ton, and proportionately higher for smaller quantities.

GUINEA-GRAINS.—The exports from the Gold Coast are gradually decreasing, as the following figures show:—

	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Lbs. ...	22,873	26,594	154,693	174,412	183,224
Value ...	229l.	193l.	580l.	1,186l.	621l.

Very scarce in London, and firmly held at 65s. to 70s. per cwt.

GUM ACACIA.—At the monthly auctions to-day the tone was of the usual dull character. The following were some of the prices obtained:—Fine picked Oomra, 64s. down to 41s.; poorish pickings, 32s. 6d. and 44s. 6d.; fine Aden sorts, 48s.; siftings, 19s. to 26s., and one lot at 14s. Very little Amrad was sold; 16s. to 16s. 6d. was paid for dark sorts. Ghatti pickings were sold without reserve at 12s. and 12s. 6d. for poor, woody 15s., and for the best lots of Amrad 25s. 6d. was paid. Good bold Turkey sorts were limited at 80s., and brownish Ghezireh at 50s. Bold Massouah was bought in at 50s., and Persian insoluble sorts sold at 14s. 6d. per cwt. Privately a good business has been done in the latter at 20s. 6d. to 21s. 6d. per cwt., according to quality, and the market is now very bare of stock, especially pale selected; shipments are, however, close at hand. Business in East Indian gums is also good.

GUM OLIBANUM.—At the gum sales two cases of dark and woody sold at 13s.; some of the best tear was limited at 45s. per cwt.

IPECACUANHA.—Cartagena has sold at 7s. 2d. per lb. for fair. We hear of less having been paid, but we find that this may have been for a parcel well known to contain about 10 per cent. of earthy matter. Both Cartagena and Rio are so variable is regard to this extraneous material that buyers should note that low quotations very frequently mean that the drug is dirty. Fourteen packages of Cartagena have arrived this week. The stock of Rio in the London warehouses on November 30 was 119 bales, and of Cartagena 29 bales. The highest deliveries this year were in September when 120 bales were taken out of the warehouse.

ISINGLASS.—At auction on Tuesday there was a good demand at dearer prices, Brazil selling at 2d. advance, and for Penang leaf and tongue 3d. to 4d. advance was paid. Bombay leaf was lower, however. The following were some of the prices obtained: Brazil, fine lump, 3s. 10d.; good, 3s. 5d. to 3s. 7d.; fair, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 5d.; and ordinary to common, 3s. to 3s. 2d. West Indian fair, 3s. to 3s. 4d., and good, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d. Penang tongue, 3s. to 3s. 2d., and fair to good, 3s. 9d. to 4s. 2d. Saigon, good, 6s. 4d. to 6s. 6d., and fair, 5s. 10d. to 6s. 2d. per lb.

KOLA-NUTS.—Business has been done in fair bold and clean West Indian nuts at 6d. per lb.—a high price, as ordinary sizes fair quality are selling at 3d. The following figures relate to the shipments from the Gold Coast during the past five years:—

	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Pkgs. ...	4,278	3,156	2,352	1,202	979
Value ...	37,870l.	33,278l.	30,565l.	28,511l.	25,116l.

At the spice-auctions on Wednesday five packages Grenada sold at 3½d., and slightly mouldy at 2½d. to 3d. per lb.

JALAP.—Nothing is obtainable on the spot under 7d. per lb.; the price in New York is 7½d.

LAVENDER-FLOWERS.—Stocks are reported to be scarce in France, and holders there ask 32s. per cwt. f.o.b. Marseilles for good, and for lower grades 17s. 6d. to 26s. 6d. per cwt.

LIQUORICE-ROOT.—Decorticated is more freely offered at easier prices, quotations varying from 30s. to 38s. per cwt. c.i.f. for continental.

MENTHOL.—Business has been done this week at 7s. 4½d. per lb. for best Japanese crystals, on the spot; 7s. 6d. is now wanted. The c.i.f. price is 7s. 9d. to 7s. 11d.

MUSK.—No shipments were made to London from China during October, the 124 taels = 7¾ cattie being sent to Kobe. Shanghai advices dated October 10 reported that small lots of Tonkin have arrived, but some of the pods were very wet.

OIL, CASTOR.—Easier. Medicinal Italian is now quoted at 35s. per cwt., c.i.f. French, of first pressing, is 23l. 10s. per ton, and medicinal 25l. 10s. f.o.b., Marseilles. Oil of British make is 27s. per cwt. in barrels, first pressing, 26s. second pressing, and medicinal 29s. 6d. f.o.r. or f.o.b., Hull

OIL, CITRONELEA.—Business has been done in small lots in drums at 11½d. per lb. c.i.f., for December-February shipment.

The exports from Ceylon from January 1 to November 8 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	1,198,138	997,887	1,004,217	874,598

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Easier in some quarters, 76s. per barrel, c.i.f., being the price for a good brand of 1898 Lofoten oil, and 1897 oil, which was selling at 75s. 6d., c.i.f., a month ago, is now to be had for 70s., c.i.f.

BERGEN, November 28.—The market continues in the same inanimate condition, with a downward tendency, as holders want to clear out their stocks before the coming season. The value of best Lofoten non-congealing medicinal oil is now 68s. per barrel, f.o.b. terms. The exports from Bergen up to date have been 7,719 barrels, against 9,635 barrels at the corresponding period of last year.

OIL, EUCALYPTUS.—Easier, owing to brisk competition. Algerian globulus oil is 2s per lb., and "Platypus" brand may be bought at a shade less than last week's quotation. The Californian oil has again come into the market, and business has been done at 1s. 8d. per lb., but there is no more offering at that price. Other oils than globulus are slow except for perfumery purposes, and the tendency to require a stated eucalyptol-content is increasing.

OIL, LEMON.—Advices from Sicily this week state that, owing to a slight decline of the exchange, it is easier to buy Sicilian essences there; but the London market is quite unaltered, and the feeling that we shall see higher prices for fine qualities is growing.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—Business has been done this week to arrive at 3d. per oz., c.i.f. London; on the spot 3¼d. is asked.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—Japanese and American HGH are both quiet at unchanged rates, sales of case-lots of the latter being reported at 5s. 4½d. per lb.

OILS, FIXED.—Ceylon Coconut, 26s. in pipes; Cochin, 30s. 6d. on the spot; fine Lagos palm, 22s. 3d. per cwt. Linseed quiet, at 16s. 7½d. in pipes, landed. Rape unchanged, at 21s. 6d. on the spot; refined, 23s.; and Ravison, 17s. 6d. Cotton steady, at 14s. to 15s. for refined, in casks.

OIL, STAR-ANISE.—The firm tendency continues, 6s. 2d. to 6s. 3d. per lb. being the spot-price. A few holders who wish to realise would take 6s. 2d., as last week, which is also the c.i.f. quotation.

OIL, TURPENTINE, has receded since last week, 28s. 9d. per cwt. being quoted, on the spot, for American.

OPUIM.—Firm, but unchanged. The demand this week has been for manufacturing Persian at 10s. to 10s. 6d. per lb. Druggists' and manufacturing kinds are slow of sale at the present high prices.

SMYRNA, November 18.—The sales for the week amount to 20 cases Karahissar at a parity of 10s. 9d., and 9 cases old ditto at 10s. per lb., c.i.f. European ports, for exportation. The market

remains unchanged, and the pecuniary needs of some of the holders force them to sell. The arrivals were 1,145 cases, against 2,920 cases last year.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 26.—Owing to the continued drought our market closes much firmer than last week, sellers are keeping aloof, and there is all round less disposition to sell. The only sale to report is a small lot of 6 cases. The price to-day is nominally 9s. 3d. to 9s. 4d. per lb., f.o.b., for druggists' grades, and 11s. 10d. to 12s., f.o.b., for soft shipping, containing 70 to 80 per cent. firsts.

Private advices from Smyrna to hand to-day report that the Americans have purchased about 60 cases this week at the equivalent of 10s. 1d. per lb., c.i.f., for druggists'.

ORANGE-PEEL, DRIED.—Stocks of Maltese thin strip are now being reduced to pre-new crop condition, and business is passing at 7d. to 7½d. per lb.

ORANGE-PEEL, FRESH.—Supplies are now coming forward fairly steadily, and prices for 1-cwt. lots are somewhat easier than those previously quoted.

QUININE.—There is really no change to report, for although in some quarters an easier feeling obtains, this is not general, and some are confident that the manufacturers must ask more before the end of the year. All calculations are upset by the manufacturers' indifference to the "bull" operators, and as the former hold the key of the position and take care to sell only to consumers, the operators cannot move. Moreover, some brands of German sulphate have been selling at 10d. per oz., others are 10½d., though the Amsterdam and Whiffen's are nominally 11d. and Howards' 1s. per oz. These prices are for 1,000-oz. lots in 100-oz. tins. B. & S. is not quoted for the moment. There is nothing doing in second hands, the quotation being 10d. Apart from the probable rise in the unit at Amsterdam next week, the only circumstance indicative of an advance is the recent demand for the United States, where, as previously reported, the domestic makers have advanced their prices to 22c. and 24c. per oz. Comparatively heavy purchases have been made in Germany, ostensibly for Cuba. Java quinine is quiet. The shipments during September from Java amounted to 50 cases, all of which came to Great Britain.

RHATANY.—An arrival of 58 bales is reported per *Liguria* from Valparaiso to Liverpool.

RHUBARB.—Shanghai advices, dated October 10, report that owing to the troubles in the Chinese interior the natives do not take sufficient care in growing the plant and preparing the root, so that the qualities are now mostly inferior. Good quality Shensi root is especially scarce, most of the parcels being imperfectly dried. New round and flat Canton in better supply, and poor common round abundant and neglected. Some new lots of Szechuen high-dried were expected. The shipments for October were 432 piculs, of which 308 came to New York and 124 to London.

SAFFRON.—Reports from the growing districts state that this year's crop is a fair one, both in quality and quantity, and in London good business has been done during the past ten days at advancing rates and without sample, closing price being equal to about 34s. per lb. on the spot (or 32s. 6d. c.i.f.) for the best Valencia, to arrive. It will be about three weeks before the first deliveries are due here, but there is no reason to suppose that the quality is inferior. Old saffron of the last crop is selling at 35s. on the spot, and it is fully expected that the new will be selling at that price before the end of the year. These quotations are for 1-cwt. lots in bulk.

SALTPETRE.—Firmer, British refined in barrels being now quoted at 20s. to 20s. 6d. per cwt., and kegs at 21s. to 21s. 6d. Bengal is nominally quoted at 16s. 6d., but little is to be had. German in barrels is 18s. 9d., and kegs 19s. 6d. per cwt. 1892

SANTONIN.—To-day the principal maker reduced his price for bulk f.o.b. Hamburg to 4s. 8d. per lb. for lots under 10 kilos., and from 4s. 5½d. to 4s. 2¾d. for larger quantities, the latter figure being for 100 kilos. It is understood that the other makers will also reduce their prices to this level. The reduction is said to have been made with the idea of stopping outside competition.

SARSAPARILLA.—The arrivals this week are 24 bales of genuine Jamaica, which comes to a bare market, and 24 bales of Lima-Jamaica, which will be offered at the drug-auctions next week.

SHELLAC.—At auction on Tuesday 881 cases were offered, of which about half sold at 1s. advance for second orange. Garnet was difficult to quit, but button sold well at previous rates. The following were some of the prices paid:—Second orange, good bright cakey, 70s.; bright curly, 66s. to 69s.; standard TN, 66s.; flat livery, 62s.; and Rangoon flint block at 54s. Garnet, ruby cakey, 53s. Button, finest, 80s. to 84s.; good pale, 75s. to 77s.; firsts, 71s. to 73s.; seconds, 62s. to 63s.; and thirds, 55s. per cwt.

SPICES.—There has been a good speculative business in Zanzibar Cloves at lower rates, but other spices have been in little demand, and very little was sold at the auctions on Wednesday. Common dark rough Cochin Ginger sold at 16s. per cwt.; cuttings at 13s. to 14s. per cwt.; medium and small cut at 43s.; and small cut at 32s. 6d. to 34s. per cwt.; washed rough bought in at 23s. per cwt. Jamaica and Japan were bought in. Penang Cloves sold at 6½d. per lb. for dark picked, and at 7¼d. for fair. Zanzibar sold at 4¼d. to 4½d. per lb. for fully fair to good. Business has been done for January-March delivery at 3½d. per lb., being lower. Chillies bought in at 35s. per cwt. for fair Zanzibar. Mace and Nutmegs difficult of sale. Arrowroot firm; fair to good St. Vincent sold at 3¼d. to 3¾d. per lb. Pimento dull; one lot good clean sold at 4¾d. per lb. Pepper was nearly all bought in; good Singapore white sold at 8¼d. per lb.; dullish at 8d. per lb. Singapore black is quoted 4¾d. on the spot; and there are sellers at 5d. per lb. for distant shipment. Penang white is nominally worth 7½d. per lb. on the spot.

TARAXACUM.—Foreign root is very firmly held at the high figure of 45s. per cwt., c.i.f., for fine, washed, cut root.

TRAGACANTH.—Has been in good inquiry this week, but with the present inadequate supplies little has been done, and no arrivals are expected for two or three weeks yet. The sales last week amounted to about 50 packages, at 11l. to 11l. 5s. for thirds, and fourths at 7l. 10s. up to 10l. 5s. per cwt.

TURMERIC.—At auction on Monday 18 bags of Madras bulbs sold at 18s. per cwt. Privately Chinese finger is firmer, 20s. per cwt. now being asked for fair on the spot.

VALERIAN.—The quotation for good root is 27s. 6d. to 28s. per cwt. c.i.f.

Coming Events.

We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.

Monday, December 5.

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 P.M. Cantor Lecture, "Acetylene" (Lecture III.), by Professor V. B. Lewes.

Society of Chemical Industry, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., at 8 P.M. "Ozone and its Commercial Applications," by Col. W. J. Engledue; "An Improved Apparatus for the Estimation of Carbonic Acid in Minerals, &c.," and "The Preparation of Standard Solutions of [Sulphuric Acid]," by Mr. A. Marshall.

Tuesday, December 6.

Röntgen Society, 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., at 8 P.M. A discussion on "Dermatitis in Relation to Röntgen-ray Work" will be introduced by Mr. E. Payne and Dr. Walsh.

Chemists' Assistants' Union of Great Britain, Smoking-concert at the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, W., at 9 P.M., Dr. H. Dutch in the chair.

Wednesday, December 7.

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, at 9 P.M. "Laboratory Notes," by Mr. J. Barclay.

Thursday, December 8.

Halifax and District Chemists' Association. Annual dinner and meeting, at 7 P.M.

Chemists' Assistants' Association. Cinderella dance at the Portman Rooms, at 7.30 P.M.



IRISH SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

SECOND YEAR.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1898.

No. 24.

42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

December 3, 1898.

THE month has been an important one in the annals of Irish pharmacy. Mr. W. B. Conyngham's application to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, Dublin, for *mandamus* to compel the Pharmaceutical Council to admit him to the Licence examination, which they had declined because he had served part of his time with a limited company, was successful. The Court held that a limited company is a firm for the purpose of this regulation.

We give an abstract of the arguments and our comments hereon in the succeeding pages; a fuller report was given in the *C. & D.* for November 19.

* * * *

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland's council-meeting on November 2 was a short one. The Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle, sent a memorial from James Hogg, who was fined at Belfast for unlawfully keeping open shop for compounding medical prescriptions, asking that his fine be remitted. The Council approved of a letter to the Lord-lieutenant, pointing out why the fine should not be remitted or abated. The Board of Inland Revenue wrote in reply to the Council that they saw no reason why there should be a change in the law with regard to the sale of methylated spirit. Some new examiners were appointed, and three new members of the Society elected.

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The winter session in Ireland has fairly begun. We give brief reports of two evening meetings of the Pharmaceutical Society, two of the Irish Pharmacists' Association, and one of the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.

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Among the many interesting features of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for the past month have been reports of Pharmacopœia discussions. Dr. Karl Dieterich contributed (*C. & D.*, November 12) a paper on "Benzoin," and, among others, at Glasgow Professor Ralph Stockman lectured on "The Evolution of our Pharmacopœia," and at Birmingham Mr. John Barclay read a paper on "The New Standards of the 1898 Pharmacopœia." Mr. Edwin Doward described his method of determining the solubility-value of essential oils (*C. & D.*, November 5), and showed that information so obtained was of considerable importance as a physical test. Mr. E. J. Parry gave a valuable note on the valuation of camomile oil in the *C. & D.*, November 26.

In our issue of November 19 we gave an illustrated report of the Chemical Society banquet to past Presidents who have been Fellows for half a century. Two meetings have been held at Dewsbury to discuss the question of the retail price of Beecham's pills, at the first of which Mr. Beecham's manager read a paper in justification of his mutual arrangement. We have also given considerable space to the optical examinations which are available to chemists. The lately-established examination of the Spectacle-makers' Company was reported in detail on November 5, and the British Optical Association's examinations on November 26. In THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, November 23, Professor Ralph Stockman's paper on "Arrow-poisons" was printed, which, although not altogether a pharmaceutical matter, contains many points attractive to chemists. A full list of chemist mayors and councillors for the ensuing municipal year was promptly given, portraits of the Mayors appearing in the *C. & D.*, November 12. There have been reports of nearly fifty meetings of chemists' societies; whilst purely trade matters have received due prominence in articles on Anglo-French trade, South American trade, the camphor-market, citronella oil, Board of Trade returns, and the new Japanese tariff. There were also given during the month over thirty formulas, and answers to a large number of legal and miscellaneous inquiries covering a wide range of subjects.

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1899 is now being distributed. Every subscriber to the *C. & D.* gets a copy of it free. Those who are not subscribers are recommended to begin now, as subscriptions begun in 1898 carry with them a copy of the 1899 DIARY.

We may add that the feature of the DIARY this year is a commentary and criticism of the new Pharmacopœia, a careful perusal of which will enable chemists to keep themselves *au courant* with the voluminous criticisms which the work has called forth.

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Conyngham v. Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

- I. The Case and Judgment.
- II. Irish Judges and the Pharmacy Act.
- III. Mr. T. W. Robinson's Reply.

I. The Case and Judgment.

THE case of W. B. Conyngham v. the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland came on for hearing in the Queen's Bench Division, Dublin, on October 28, before the Lord Chief Baron, Mr. Justice O'Brien and Mr. Justice Andrews. The Council had refused to admit complainant to the Licence examination on the ground that he had not served a four years' apprenticeship to an individual pharmaceutical chemist, his apprenticeship having been in part to a limited-liability company, of which Messrs. Hayes, H. Conyngham, and Robinson, together with four others, were members. Applicant sought a *mandamus* to compel the Council to admit him to the examination.

Mr. Joseph Day, on the part of the Council of the Society, showed cause against the conditional order. Counsel stated that Mr. Conyngham, the applicant, was in September, 1892, apprenticed to his father, Mr. Henry Conyngham, who is a member of the limited company. After having served nine months to him he was transferred as an apprentice to Mr. Hayes, another member of the company, and served with him for two years and two months up to August 31, 1895, after which his apprenticeship was again transferred to his father, whom he served for a further period of nine months. In April, 1897, Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson became incorporated as a limited company; and the applicant served the balance of his term of apprenticeship with his father as a member of that company. The contention of the Council was that a limited company was not a firm of "legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists," and the whole question was, Had this gentleman served a four years' engagement to a "pharmaceutical chemist" or a "firm of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists"? He contended that a company registered under the Companies Act could not be considered to be a firm of "legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists."

Mr. Ronan, Q.C., addressed the Court on the part of the applicant and in support of the conditional order, and submitted that the regulation was *ultra vires*, but that even if it were not his client was within it. The regulation required a statutory declaration signed by a pharmaceutical chemist that the candidate had served a *bonâ-fide* engagement for a term of four years as apprentice or assistant in the sole employment of such pharmaceutical chemist, or had served a *bonâ-fide* engagement as assistant in the sole employment of a firm of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists, of which firm the aforesaid pharmaceutical chemist is a "member." The word was "member," not "partner"; and the Court had no right to cut down the meaning of the word "firm" so as to exclude from it a limited company. He submitted that an association of persons registered under the Companies Acts was a "firm" within the meaning of the language of the regulation. One of the articles of association of the limited company in question enacted that no person who was not a qualified pharmaceutical chemist should be a member of it; and there were provisions to the effect that shares should not get into the hands of unqualified persons. What difference was there between a registered partnership of pharmaceutical chemists and an unregistered partnership of the same persons? If the members of this company had not filed a document in the Custom House the apprenticeship in question would have been perfectly good.

The arguments were resumed on November 1.

Mr. Matheson, Q.C., followed on the same side with Mr. Ronan, Q.C., and submitted that, assuming the regulation in question was valid and binding, there had been a compliance with it on the part of the applicant. The contention on his part was that the word "firm" was a general term applicable

to any association consisting of more than one pharmaceutical chemist.

Mr. Gordon, Q.C., replied on the part of the Council, and urged that the word "firm" had no meaning in English law apart from the persons composing it, whereas an incorporated company, of seven or more persons, was a legal entity, not depending for its existence on the persons composing it at all.

The Lord Chief Baron gave judgment on November 11, and said the examination was prescribed by the 21st section of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, for "all persons desirous of being registered as pharmaceutical chemists" under that Act. The Council in reply to the application said that Section 16 of the same Act empowered them, subject to its provisions, to make regulations with respect to the examination; and that Section 17 directed that every regulation made under it should be of no force or effect until approved of by the Lord-Lieutenant and Privy Council, and until it had been laid before both Houses of Parliament for a prescribed time, and that then it should be of like force and effect as if it had been enacted in the Act. The defendants then relied on a regulation sanctioned by the Lord-Lieutenant and Privy Council on November 17, 1887, Clause 3 of which enacted that candidates for the licence should be required to produce a statutory declaration, signed by a pharmaceutical chemist, stating that the candidate had served a *bonâ-fide* engagement for a term of four years, or of two or more terms amounting to four years, "as apprentice or assistant" in the sole employment of such pharmaceutical chemist or of a firm of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists of which the aforesaid pharmaceutical chemist was a member." It appeared from the applicant's declaration that one of the terms which made up his four years had been served with an incorporated company registered under the Act of 1867, the articles of which provided that no person could be a member of it who was not a legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemist. The contention of the Council was that that company was not a "firm of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists" within the meaning of the regulation. The applicant's answer to that was that the regulation was not authorised by Section 16 of the Act of 1875; but that, if it were, the company in question was a legally-qualified firm within its meaning. In answer to the allegation that the regulation was *ultra vires*, the Council contended that it was not competent to the Court to inquire whether it was or not; and that even if it had been originally *ultra vires*, it had been recognised and validated by Section 10 of the Pharmacy (Ireland) Amendment Act of 1890. The Court had consequently to determine four questions—viz.: (1) Were they at liberty to consider whether the regulation was *ultra vires* or not? (2) If they were, was it *ultra vires* when made? (3) If *ultra vires* when made, was it validated by the Act of 1890? (4) If it was so validated, was the company in question within its meaning?

Of these questions by far the most important was the first, having regard to the wide application which the present decision of the Court must necessarily have in connection with the numerous Acts authorising the making of rules and regulations. The words of Section 17 of the Act of 1875 were that all "such" regulations when so approved should have a specified effect. To what did the word "such" refer? The defendants contended that it meant regulations purporting to have been made under the authority of the Act. Was the Court to introduce the word "purporting"? It appeared to him to be quite clear that they could not do so. It had been contended, however, that they were bound by the decision of the House of Lords in the case of the Institute of Patents v. Lockwood. His Lordship quoted from the judgments of the Lords in this case, and

proceeded to say that in the present case the power given by section 16 to make regulations was limited to certain specific subject-matters. In the case before the House of Lords there was no such limitation with respect to the subject-matter of the regulations; but in the present case, where there was as a limited subject-matter to which the rules were alone to apply, the Court had to consider whether it extended beyond the subject-matter of the power. He was of opinion that it was competent to the Court to see—and that they were bound to determine—whether the regulation in question was *ultra vires*. This brought him to the second question, which he thought no doubt could be entertained. Section 16 said that the Council of the Society might, subject to the provisions of the Act, make regulations with respect to the examination of persons “desirous of being registered as pharmaceutical chemists under the Act.” Section 21 enacted that all persons “desirous of being registered as pharmaceutical chemists under the Act may at any such examination present themselves for examination.” Under that power the Council could not cut down the generality of the words “shall be desirous of being registered as pharmaceutical chemists,” and limit them to those who had served four years’ apprenticeship. The regulation, in his opinion, was not *ultra vires* in respect of its subject-matter, as to which the power to make such a regulation did not exist, but it was repugnant to the Act itself. The third question was as to the effect upon the regulation of the Act of 1890. On this question it seemed to him to be by far the most difficult question in the case. Section 10 of the Amendment Act of 1890 enacted that “every person who shall have served an apprenticeship of four years to a registered chemist and druggist, or a registered druggist not being a pharmaceutical chemist, and who in addition shall have served an apprenticeship of two years to either a pharmaceutical chemist or a licentiate of the Apothecaries’ Hall, shall be entitled to present himself for examination under the principal Act as a pharmaceutical chemist, and shall be entitled on passing his examination to be registered as a pharmaceutical chemist.” He did not entertain any doubt that although that section was couched in enabling words, it might, as regarded the particular class that were brought within its provisions, have a disabling effect, provided the state of the law at the time the Act of 1890 was passed was—as he now held it to be—that this regulation was invalid under the Act of 1875. After consideration he took it for certain that having regard to the words of the section they must assume that there was present to the mind of the Legislature, not only the actual law, but also the actual Privy Council Order. So that, in his opinion, the Legislature not only recognised the binding of the Order in Council, but legislated upon the basis of that Order in such a way that the intent of the Legislature could not have effect unless the Order was valid. And the conclusion at which he had arrived, was that the effect of the section was to make this regulation valid.

If, then, the regulation had become binding, was this incorporated company a “firm of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists”? Now, on this point, which would naturally decide the matter, it was pleasant to be able to get out of the region of doubt and difficulty to the firm basis of certainty. He entertained no doubt in the world that this incorporated company was a firm within the meaning of the regulation, and he would go farther, and say that it more perfectly answered the description than would an unincorporated company. It was an incorporated company of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists. No person other than such a chemist could, according to the present constitution of the company, be a member of it. True, its articles of association might be altered, but at present every member of the company must be a legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemist; and therefore the question was reduced to this—Must the word “firm” in the regulation be limited to unincorporated companies? Now, when this regulation was made, not by persons to whom legal knowledge could be attributed, but by a council of traders, and, as the Master of the Rolls of England, in his book on partnerships, showed, merchants and lawyers had different notions with respect to the nature of a “firm.” An incorporated company more nearly represented their ideal than did an ordinary partnership, and he saw no reason for excluding it from, but many for including it within, the term “firm,” which was large enough to embrace it. The object

and intent of the regulation was that the candidate should have undergone a course of training under pharmaceutical chemists; and that object was satisfied whether the persons whom he served were or were not incorporated. On the whole, his (the Chief Baron’s) opinion very clearly was that the conditional order for the writ of *mandamus* must be made absolute.

Mr. Justice O’Brien said that from the beginning he entertained no doubt whatever as to the last proposition discussed by the Lord Chief Baron, and that not merely the ordinary use of language, but the strict application of the technical rules of law admitted of the facts that had been relied on in this case making it a case of compliance with the regulation on the part of the applicant. He did not attach the same meaning—even having regard to the more extended and loose application of the word—to the word “firm” as the Lord Chief Baron, who seemed to think that a company was something distinct from the individuals that composed it. It appeared to him (Mr. Justice O’Brien) that the word “firm” had the same meaning in the regulation as it had in ordinary language—a trade carried on by several persons; and that it was used not to describe some separate entity, but by way of distinction from the preceding part of the regulation, in which the words, “sole employment of such pharmaceutical chemist” were used; and that a “firm of pharmaceutical chemists” meant exactly the same thing as several pharmaceutical chemists. And it occurred to him that not only had the applicant complied with the regulation by serving an apprenticeship and acting as assistant to a company that consisted of several pharmaceutical chemists, but that he would have complied with the earlier part of it if he had been apprentice or assistant to one pharmaceutical chemist. He had great difficulty in assenting to a proposition which had been put forward during the argument as an objection to that conclusion—a proposition quoted from one of the learned Judges before whom a former case was heard, in which the question was whether an incorporated or registered company was within the Act of Parliament which imposed penalties for the unauthorised sale of chemical substances. That was not the question here at all. It was said that the company was the only entity, and that the entities of Mr. Hayes and Mr. Conyngham and the other members of this firm were lost entirely. It seemed an extremely curious use of technical law to say that because a company as such could not be made liable to a penalty they could not contain in themselves the elements for affording instruction to an apprentice or assistant so as to qualify him under this Act of Parliament. Mr. Justice O’Brien went on to say that the other questions in the case were of very great and wide importance. Of course the most important one was whether the decision of the House of Lords governed this case. He was of opinion that it did not. The Pharmacy Act directed certain subjects of examination, and the other clauses of the section related to fees and the election of members; but it was quite as single and as bald in all other respects as the Civil Engineers Act. After a criticism of the House of Lords cases his Lordship proceeded to say that it was quite certain to his mind that the rule requiring a certificate of apprenticeship or of having acted as assistant for four years to a pharmaceutical chemist or firm of pharmaceutical chemists was entirely in violation of the authority given by the Act of Parliament. They then passed this rule requiring a certificate of apprenticeship. Where in the world was there any authority for such a rule as that to be found in the Act of Parliament? It prescribed certain subjects in which they were to hold examinations. The primary object of the Act was to make a register. Were these rules made in professed pursuance of making a register? They were not, but upon a wholly different matter—upon a matter as unauthorised as if they had made a rule that whoever presented himself at the pharmaceutical chemists’ examination should be within the age of forty years. That would be far less a violation of their authority than the rule they had made, which was for the constitution of a status reaching back for a period of not less than four years, and which, in his opinion, was outside the Act of Parliament altogether. The last question was one of great importance—namely, the effect of the section of the Act of 1890 upon the subject they had to deal with. On this point his Lordship came to the conclusion that the Legislature in enacting that section had the

principal Act under their consideration, and also the rules made under it.

Mr. Justice Andrews said, if the question had to be determined upon a consideration of the Act of 1875 only, he would be quite prepared to hold that the regulation was *ultra vires*. The regulation made under Section 16 was not made subject to the provisions of Section 21, but was absolutely at variance with it, because it denied the right to present for examination without the apprenticeship service; and the Court had no authority to read the word "purporting" into Section 17, which said that regulations made under the authority of the Act should be of no force and effect until approved of by the Lord-Lieutenant and Privy Council. In his opinion the present case was unaffected by Lockwood's case. Assuming—but not deciding—that the regulation was valid, he was of opinion that the incorporation of the company did not deprive the individual members of it of their character of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists. Every "firm" was not an incorporated company, but it did not follow from that that an incorporated company did not comprise a firm; and it appeared to him to be a refinement to say the company in question did not come within the description of a legally-qualified firm contained in the regulation because they were, in addition, members of an incorporated company. The result, according to his opinion, was that if the regulation in question was invalid the applicant was not bound by it. If it was valid, his case came within it, so that the *mandamus* ought to go.

The Lord Chief Baron: The costs must abide the result of the proceedings.

After some discussion between counsel as to whether the writ was to be issued or not, an adjournment of a week was granted, in order to afford counsel for the defendants, the Council of the Society, an opportunity of considering what course they would pursue.

II. Irish Judges and the Pharmacy Act.

THE following article appeared in the *C. & D.* of November 19:—

The almost slavish submission of lawyers and judges to precedents is a frequent subject of irony; and doubtless it does sometimes seem to prevent the unfettered consideration of a cause. But if the Courts were to disregard the principles and conclusions which have been established by previous consideration and arguments, the result would certainly be much more inconvenient to the public. The administration of law cannot become an exact science; its glorious uncertainty will probably always remain the one most certain thing about it; but, all the same, it is desirable that we should be able to rely on the application of definite rules to cases of corresponding import. This is just what we do not get in the recent case decided under the Pharmacy Act of Ireland.

The judgment of the Irish High Court in the case of *Conyngham v. Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland* is such a curious reversal of the decision of the same Court in the case of *Cleeland v. the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland* in January, 1896, that it is almost difficult to believe that the Judges are treating the point at issue seriously. Neither the Lord Chief Baron nor Mr. Justice Andrews was a member of the Court which heard the earlier case, so that no personal inconsistency can be alleged against them. But Mr. Justice O'Brien put his views on record in the *Cleeland* case, and now argues dead against them with the most perfect complacency. His also was the leading judgment in the case of the *Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland v. Alexander Boyd & Co., Limited* (*C. & D.*, February 15, 1896), which formally applied the House of Lords judgment in regard to company pharmacy to the Pharmacy Act of Ireland.

Mr. Justice O'Brien's legal position is so curious that justice can only be done to it by placing the crucial point of his decisions in parallel columns, as appended:—

The whole matter in the present case appeared to turn on the construction of the words "firm of pharmaceutical chemists." These appeared to

He did not attach the same meaning—even having regard to the more extended and loose application of the word—to the word "firm" as the Lord

be quite sufficient to decide the question. It was impossible, in his mind, by any strain or twist of reasoning or language, to raise any question as to the meaning of those words. They meant individual pharmaceutical chemists. They could not be taken to mean a body including pharmaceutical chemists or a company. . . . He was therefore compelled to come to the conclusion that it was impossible to assist the applicant in the present case by granting a *mandamus*.

(From Mr. Justice O'Brien's judgment in the *Cleeland* case. *C. & D.*, January 18, 1896.)

Chief Baron, who seemed to think that a company was something distinct from the individuals that composed it. It appeared to him (Mr. Justice O'Brien) that the word "firm" had the same meaning in the regulation as it had in ordinary language—a trade carried on by several persons . . . and it occurred to him that the applicant had complied with the regulation by serving an apprenticeship and acting as assistant to a company that consisted of several pharmaceutical chemists.

(From Mr. Justice O'Brien's judgment in the *Conyngham* case.—*C. & D.*, November 19, 1898.)

So far as the question of company or firm is concerned, it is impossible to distinguish between the *Cleeland* and the *Conyngham* cases. The Pharmaceutical Council refused to admit to the qualifying examination both of these gentlemen on precisely the same ground—namely, that their certificates of service were signed, not by a pharmaceutical chemist or by a firm of pharmaceutical chemists, but by the representative of an incorporated company, a being which the House of Lords has declared cannot by any means become a pharmaceutical chemist, and is therefore entirely outside the Pharmacy Act. Mr. *Cleeland's* employers, Messrs. *Grattan & Co. (Limited)*, Belfast, were not all qualified chemists; the company whose certificate Mr. *Conyngham* produced is required by its articles of association to consist of pharmaceutical chemists only. But if the judgment of the House of Lords is of any value it applies as much to one company as to the other. "A corporation as such cannot possess a competent practical knowledge," said Lord Justice *Bramwell* in the English case. Likewise a corporation as such cannot instruct an apprentice. Both Mr. *Cleeland* and Mr. *Conyngham* had been taught their business by qualified persons; the Lord Chief Baron and his colleague attempt to draw distinctions in respect of the fact that in the first case not all the shareholders were qualified, while all are in *Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson (Limited)*; but if these explanations satisfy their own minds that is all they will do.

The essential point of the decision is the refusal of the Judges to recognise in this case the distinction between a "firm" and "company"—a distinction they were ready enough to adopt when it went against pharmacists in the *Boyd* case. The High Court of Ireland thus declares that companies are to have both their penny and their bun, to use Mr. *Glyn-Jones's* metaphor. The Court is unanimous as to the invalidity of the regulation requiring four years' service as a condition precedent to the examination, and the elucidation of this point is interesting and clever. It was to a large extent anticipated in Mr. Justice O'Brien's judgment in the *Cleeland* case, but neither then nor now has it had any actual effect on the decision. All the Judges hold that the regulation under the 1875 Act, though approved by the Privy Council of Ireland and laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament for the stipulated period, was *ultra vires*; but they also conclude that it was subsequently validated by a section of the amending Act of 1890, which provides evidence that the Legislature then recognised and adopted the invalid regulation. It was a roundabout way of getting there, but it arrived there all the same. Incidentally we may remark that the regulations under the British Act providing similar conditions would seem to be equally *ultra vires*, and they certainly have not been sanctioned by subsequent legislation.

This decision of the Irish High Court would be satisfactory enough if it were not in direct conflict with a judgment of unfortunately greater authority. The losers in the recent action, we presume, would ask for nothing better than to have it established that for the purposes of the Pharmacy Act a company is a firm. The House of Lords said it was not. The High Court of Ireland may disagree with the House of Lords, but unfortunately cannot overrule it. The Lord Chief Baron and Mr. Justice O'Brien seem to have satisfied themselves by some process of reasoning, which they certainly do not make clear, that they are not contravening

to law in this respect as it was laid down. They accept the House of Lords judgment, and yet in going exactly contrary to it, the Lord Chief Baron congratulates himself on being "out of the region of doubt and difficulty," and "on the firm basis of certainty." Mr. Justice O'Brien, with a vague remembrance, perhaps, of his previous opinion, lacks the decency to manifest a little less assurance, and covers his retreat with some obscure arguments. But the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, which might fairly have assumed that the distinction between "firm" and "company" was at least one of the few settled things in pharmacy law, is left for the future to carry on the administration of the Act entrusted to it, with no more certainty as to its conduct than can be obtained from a study of such diametrically opposed judgments as those with which Mr. Justice O'Brien has illuminated the legal records of his country.

III. A Reply.

We append a letter, which was published on November 26, from Mr. T. W. Robinson, with the editorial note we attached to it.

SIR,—As the obvious deduction to be made from a reading of your Editorial on the above cannot apply by reason of the high reputation of your journal for impartiality, I am obliged to conclude that, in the short time at your disposal, you were unable to fully peruse the judgments in question. I am inclined all the more to this opinion on account of the paragraph which appears in your summary of contents, in which you state the Court held "that a limited company is a firm for the purposes of this regulation."

Your position is so curious that justice can only be done to it by placing the crucial point of the judgment, in the words of the Judge, and your version of it in parallel columns, as follows:—

He (the Lord Chief Baron) entertained no doubt in the world that this incorporated company was a firm within the meaning of the regulation. It was an incorporated company of legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists. No person other than such a chemist could, according to the present constitution of the company, be a member of it. True, its Articles of Association might be altered, and when they could be so altered that a person, not a pharmaceutical chemist, could be a member of the company, another question could arise, and he would usually follow the previous decision of the Court.—From the Lord Chief Baron's Judgment in the Conyngham case, *C. & D.*, November 19, 1898.

Mr. W. B. Conyngham has applied to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, Dublin, for a *mandamus* to compel the Pharmaceutical Council to admit him to the Licence examination, which they had declined because he had served part of his time with a limited company. He got a *mandamus*, the Court holding that a limited company is a firm for the purposes of this regulation.—*EDITOR C. & D.*, page 809, November 19, 1898.

Your contention that this case was identical with that of *Cleeland v. The Pharmaceutical Society* cannot be sustained for a moment, as the affidavits made by the Pharmaceutical Society in that case complained that only two of the shareholders in the firm then in question were pharmaceutical chemists, and that affidavit fully explains Judge O'Brien's remarks, which you have endeavoured to hold up to ridicule, when he said, in *Cleeland's* case, that "the words meant individual pharmaceutical chemists. A firm of pharmaceutical chemists could not be taken to mean a body including pharmaceutical chemists or a company." I know the futility of entering upon a contest with an editor unless you happen to have him in the cleft stick of the libel law, and I do not propose further taking up your valuable space. I will merely add that if the administration of the law in this case is so bad, so obscure, so idiotic as you describe it in your trenchant and violent editorial, there is a Court of Appeal in Ireland as in England, and if, when your friends try it, and, peradventure, find the same crass stupidity illuminating that tribunal, there is still another tribunal which you wot of—the House of Lords—where although a couple of Irishmen have honoured seats, yet the surrounding and atmospheric influences of London might prevent them from

giving or upholding a decision of so much indecency as you complain of, and one so much out of accord with the views and feelings of Irish pharmaceutical chemists as represented by their trade-organ. Yours faithfully,

T. W. ROBINSON.

112 Upper Georges Street, Kingstown.

P.S.—You will be interested to hear that the Lord Chief Baron anticipated your quotation from Lord Justice Bramwell in the English case, and, using it, asked counsel if any firm as such could possess competent practical knowledge, or could compound prescriptions, or teach apprentices, and counsel replied "No; except by its individual members"—a reply which seemed to satisfy both sides.

[We cannot expect Mr. Robinson to agree with our view, and as he is on the winning side he can well afford to treat a mere lay opinion with good humour. The only object of this note is to make clear the issue between us. The Irish High Court holds that "Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson (Limited)" are a firm for the purposes of the regulation made under the Pharmacy Act. In a previous case they held that "Grattan & Co. (Limited)" were not a firm for the same purposes. They draw the distinction on the ground that in the former case all the shareholders are qualified; in the latter they were not. We do not regard the distinction as "bad, obscure, and idiotic." On the contrary, we see a great deal of reason for it. All that we argue is that it is a direct contravention of the judgment of the House of Lords in the case of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain *v. The London and Provincial Supply Association (Limited)*, which ruled that a duly registered company, however constituted, was so far different from a person or a firm that it was not subject to penalties which could be imposed on the latter under the Act. Exactly the same argument should, we humbly think, deprive it of privileges under the Act. Of the two we prefer the Irish Court's view; but, unfortunately, it is that of the House of Lords which prevails.]

Other Legal Cases.

AN APPRENTICE'S ACTION.

At the Ennis Quarter Sessions, John Vaughan, Rathmines Road, Dublin, brought an action against Dr. J. M. Mangan, Ennis, for 50*l.* for breach of an indenture of apprenticeship, by which the defendant agreed to instruct plaintiff as a pharmaceutical chemist for a term of three years, but on December 27 last compelled plaintiff to leave his establishment.

John Vaughan related how that, on returning from a Christmas visit to his uncle, Father Vaughan, Dr. Mangan would not admit him; and, on his returning the next morning, he was told to take his departure. He thought the reason was because he had gone away at Christmas without leave.

Dr. Mangan alleged that Vaughan was unpunctual in arriving at the shop and dull at learning. He told Vaughan that if he left on Christmas Day he should under no circumstances take him back again.

After further evidence had been given, his Honour dismissed the case on its merits.

AN AERATED-WATER BOTTLE CASE.

At Dublin, on November 10, Mr. Thomas Byrne, F.C.S., trading as the "Excelsior Mineral-water Company," was summoned by the Mineral-water Association for having illegally used bottles belonging to Messrs. Cantrell & Cochrane, Thwaites & Co., Shanks & Co., Bewly & Draper, Taylor & Co., and the Artesian Company. He admitted the offence. The Magistrate imposed a fine of 10*s.* and 1*l.* costs in each of the ten cases, making in all 5*l.* fine, and 10*l.* costs.

GINGER-ALE IN THE SEA.

In the Recorder's Court, Belfast, Messrs. Cantrell & Cochrane sued the Belfast Shipping Company for 2*l.* in respect of two barrels of ginger-ale which they had contracted to carry from Belfast to Liverpool, but which had been dropped into the sea from the quay. His Honour, after hearing the evidence, said there was no ground for action, wilful negligence on the part of the Shipping Company not having been shown.

The Month's News.

Death of Mr. A. C. Ross.

On November 17, at the residence of his father, Market Street, Sligo, Archibald Clark Ross, L.P.S.I., late senior assistant in the pharmacy of Mr. W. F. Wells, Dublin. Mr. Ross, though in failing health for some time past, carried off with distinction the Pharmaceutical Society's gold medal, which was awarded to him at the opening school-meeting of the Society, held recently. His death on the threshold of a brilliant career will be learned with deep regret by his many pharmaceutical friends.

Business Changes.

Mr. J. W. Harvey is to open a pharmacy in St. George's Street, Cork.

Mr. J. B. Bolger, L.P.S.I., late senior compounder in Messrs. Graham's State Pharmacy, Westmoreland Street, Dublin, has opened a Medical Hall in Main Street, Maryborough.

Mr. Frederick Freedman, L.P.S.I., has purchased the Medical Hall, North Frederick Street, Dublin.

Mr. Joseph Holton, chemist and druggist, late with Dr. Powell, Nenagh, has opened a shop in that town.

Messrs. Byrne & Co., mineral-water manufacturers, Dublin are now Byrne & Shaw (Limited).

Mr. Patrick Kelly, M.C.P.S.I., Dublin, has disposed of his Branch Pharmacy at Newtown Mount, Kennedy, to Mr. McKie, L.P.S.I., late manager of Dr. Merrin's Medical Hall, Lower Camden Street, Dublin.

Mr. F. T. Parker, L.P.S.I., has been appointed manager of Gordon's Medical Hall, Ranelagh, *vice* Mr. W. Vincent Johnston, M.P.S.I., who has started business on his own account.

Messrs. S. Connor & Sons, pharmaceutical chemists, Newry, have improved the appearance of their establishment by having new interior fittings, and a handsome incised fascia, 54 feet in length, with cornice and cresting.

The Ulster Chemist Company (Limited) have taken over the business of "The City of Derry General Drug Warehouse," formerly carried on by Messrs. David, Galbraith & Co., 1 Sackville, Londonderry.

Drug contracts.

Mr. P. N. White, chemist, Sligo, has secured the medicines and medical and surgical appliances contracts for the Longford, Strokestown and Mohill Unions.

The Cork Guardians have obtained only one tender for the supply of medicines to the Union, and are surprised.

Messrs. John Clarke & Co., wholesale druggists, Belfast, and Messrs. S. Connor & Sons, pharmacists, Newry, have been appointed contractors to the Newry Union for medicines and medical appliances respectively.

The Local Government Board were inclined to surcharge the Rathkeale Guardians in respect to certain medicines which they considered to be out of order, but have given way and written a caution to the medical officer that in future, except in very grave circumstances, he should not order medicines or other appliances direct from the contractors. The Guardians, however, have replied that no medicines of an extraordinary nature have been ordered except of an immediately urgent nature, and request the record to be cancelled.

Messrs. P. A. Leslie & Co., Dublin, have obtained the contract of the Mill Street Union.

Messrs. Harrington & Sons, Cork, have that for the Clonakilty Union.

Dr. J. F. O'Ryan, of Tipperary, has secured the Kilrush contract.

Messrs. Thacker & Hoffe, wholesale druggists, Dublin, have complained through the Local Government Board of the Armagh Guardians giving the drug-contract to another firm whose total prices were higher than theirs. The Guardians have told the Board that they were quite satisfied with the arrangement.

Guardians and Pharmacy.

The Belmullet Guardians recently advertised for a dispensary officer to the Knocknalouser district. There were only two candidates, both women. The Guardians would prefer a man doctor, but do not apparently offer a sufficiently tempting salary.

The Athy Guardians have, after consulting the Local Government Board, ordered two copies of the new Pharmacopœia. The Clerk expressed an opinion that the work would cost 3*l.* 3*s.* a copy.

The Skibbereen Guardians recently resolved to pension Dr. Hadden, an old official of the Union, but thought to allow him to retain the position of compounder of medicines at a small salary. The L.G.B. object to this arrangement for the reason that if a man be incapacitated from performing his duties as medical officer, he is also unfit for the not less responsible duty of compounder; adding that no superannuation allowance could be given to Dr. Hadden while he acted as chemist to the Union.

The Croom Guardians have been told by the L.G.B. that certain medicines supplied to the workhouse by the apothecary were improperly requisitioned, and it would establish an inconvenient precedent to sanction the payment. It was also pointed out that the apothecary, being a paid officer of the Union, had, in supplying the articles, rendered himself liable to a penalty not exceeding 100*l.*

The Belfast Guardians on November 15 stated that the L.G.B. had called their attention to the necessity for all medicines being prepared according to the new B.P. The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the letter to each of the medical officers, as directed by the Board.

At the meeting of the County Cork Board of Guardians a medical prescription was read, signed by one of the dispensary officers, ordering a daily supply of a pint of whisky and a bottle of port wine. The patient was suffering from a large abscess at the back of the neck.

The Cork Medicine contract.

At a meeting of the Cork Guardians, on October 27, a letter was read from Messrs. P. J. Leslie & Co., Dublin, explaining that they did not tender for medicines this year because they had heard on good authority that their tender was on several occasions much lower than that of the firm who got the contract, and consequently it was only a farce for the Board to advertise for medicines at all. Several Guardians referred to the statements contained in the letter as "serious" and "discreditable" if true; and ultimately the Board directed the Clerk to write to Messrs. Leslie for further explanation.

The Cork Chemical and Drug Company, to whom the medicine-contract was given, promptly wrote to the Guardians asking that the figures of the competing contractors should be published, not only for the current half-year, but for several years past. Mr. Bannister (a Guardian) stated that considerable trouble had been taken to get a right basis for this contract, and it was determined to take the whole of the articles consumed by the Union and price them, and the tender which worked out lowest was accepted. The Clerk said the tender of the Chemical and Drug Company, when calculated on that basis, came to 507*l.*, whilst that of Messrs. Leslie came to 571*l.*

Messrs. Leslie replied that they were not at liberty to disclose the name of their authority, and added: "We shall have much pleasure in tendering for medicines to your Union, provided that the lowest tender gets the contract. We shall also have much pleasure in sending samples of our goods so that the Guardians could see that they are thoroughly up to the mark. Of course, we understand that when there is only a small difference 'twixt the different tenders that a local firm paying rates in your city should justly have the preference. That is only reasonable."

The Guardians objected to the tone of this letter, and asked Messrs. Leslie to apologise, which they did in a letter read at the meeting on November 17.

Personal.

Mr. Henry Hunt, President of the Irish Pharmacists Association, has been appointed staff-apothecary and demonstrator in pharmacy to the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin.

Mr. W. R. O. Barker, M.P.S.I., has resigned his appointment as chemist to the Grand Canal Street Dispensary, Dublin.

Warding the Native.

A man named Ward was at Newry the other day sent for trial to the assizes on a charge of smashing the plate-glass windows in Messrs. Connor & Sons' pharmacy. He was caught in the act by two policemen, and explained that he broke the windows because the shop was being refitted by an English firm. Mr. J. Edgar Connor deposed that the glass was valued at 14*l.* 11*s.* The house was in course of reconstruction, and the new windows had only been put in on October 13.

A Manly Youth.

During the past month Messrs. Denning & Sons, of Sligo, were summoned under the Factory Act for having a "young person"—namely, a boy under 18 years of age—at work in their aerated-water factory after 3 P.M. The Inspector said the boy had told him he was 16 years of age. Dr. Denning said the boy had told him he was over 18 years of age when he engaged him. The case was adjourned, and a few days later the Inspector wrote to Messrs. Denning stating that he found he was wrong about the boy's age, and apologising. The baptismal certificate showed the lad's age to be 22 years.

Discount on the Frog.

Mr. J. E. Garratt, of London, sued Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, (Limited), in the Dublin Recorder's Court, on October 19, for 2*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, which the defendants claimed to be part of the discount on a supply of "Frog in your Throat." The defendants originally ordered 25 gross, for 10 of which they paid, arranging to hold the other 15 gross on sale or return them, as might be agreed upon. In December, 1897, they contracted to dispose of the remainder of the stock (13 gross at that time), and ordered 2 gross extra, which they did not get until January. The price was agreed on at 60*s.* per gross, and it was arranged that the discount was to be 5 per cent. for payment within a month, 2½ per cent. for payment within two months, and at three months the price was to be strictly net. Defendants deducted 5 per cent. discount under this agreement, but plaintiff denied their right to do so, and claimed, that 2*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* was due to him. The dispute depended on the period at which the transaction was to date from. The Recorder found for the plaintiff.

PILL MILL.

Six years ago we took an estimate from our readers, based on their own sales, and multiplied by all other sources of supply throughout the United Kingdom, of the quantity of pills swallowed in Great Britain and Ireland. Our estimate came out at 5,643,961 daily. Lately we notice our friends on the *Star* have made a calculation in regard to the same problem on a different basis altogether. The "twinkler's" way of reckoning is as follows:—

It may be estimated that the proprietors of patent pills pay 10,000*l.* per week in advertisements. Taken on an average the shilling box contains some 45 pills. This means that 9,000,000 pills must be taken every week merely to pay the advertising account. To pay for the cost of the pills themselves, the maintenance of the establishments, and the profits, it may be safely said 11,000,000 pills are swallowed, making the weekly consumption into 20,000,000 pills. Add to this another 20,000,000 pills for those dispensed and made by doctors and chemists, and we have 40,000,000 pills as the week's consumption, or 250 cwt. That is to say, each person—man, woman, or child, takes a pill every week.

We congratulate the *Star* man on getting so near to accuracy on such untrustworthy data. He only professed to deal in round numbers; we, on the other hand, worked the problem out to the last pill, and our week's figures told up to 39,507,727. The *Star's* guess of 40,000,000 is very creditable to it.

ALCHEMIC FAITH.

An extraordinary exhibition of faith in alchemy occurred in New York City some time ago, the details of which

remind us of similar transactions reported in the Middle Ages. The persons in this domestic drama are four in number—a small tradesman, Gustav Hammer by name, and his wife, who became the dupes of two conspirators named Stanley Glass and Max Pearlman. In the spring of 1895 Glass confided to Hammer that a friend of his possessed a wonderful secret which would make them all rich; his friend, he explained, was an alchemist, and with a little brass, some copper, and a few platinum filings, and the wonderful secret, he could procure any amount of gold. These representations interested Hammer and his wife, who consented to go into the business—in fact, to furnish the money necessary for an experiment, which amounted to \$450 for platinum and \$234 for other materials. After some delays and procrastination on the part of Pearlman the alchemist, the great work was undertaken in his house. The experiment was conducted in a semi-dark room, and began at midnight. The metals were placed in a crucible over a very hot fire, and Pearlman stirred them with a rod, at the same time pouring in a white powder—the Philosopher's Stone. The heat was maintained for a long time until the metals fused. After cooling the crucible, Pearlman took out the alloy and gave it to Hammer, saying it was pure gold. The tradesman took the fused mass to an assayer, who informed him the lump contained \$18 worth of gold. Hammer, indignant at the swindle, sought relief in the courts, and at the last accounts, Glass had been arrested, but Pearlman could not be found.

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS.

Dr. J. L. W. Thudicum has been publishing a series of papers in the *Medical Press* on "The Progress of Chemistry in its Application to Physiology, Pathology, and the Practice of Medicine." The nineteenth of the series, "On the Reactions of some Biliary Principles, Particularly Bilirubin, with Iodine," consists in a measure of a consideration of a published paper by Dr. A. Jolles, of Vienna. This is well worth reading, for it is lively and wonderfully personal. Perhaps the concluding passage will serve as well as any other to exemplify Dr. Thudicum's style:—

An abstract of the paper of Dr. Jolles was printed amongst its cognates in animal chemistry in the *Journal of the Chemical Society of London*. Even the most fallacious data, and a number of enormities of these, were unwittingly repeated by the abstractor, without a word of warning to the readers of the journal, most of whom would never see, and have no means of judging of the value of, the original. This absence of criticism where it is highly needed is the counterpart of the exercise of the same faculty on subjects which some reporters have no knowledge of, and yet endeavour to deteriorate in the opinion of their readers. The modern abstracts thus become instruments for the propagation of error, as well as the exercise of personal spite, and those who rely at all upon abstracts arrive at last in a situation of being steeped, and in danger of being drowned, in error. The abstracts ultimately wander into so-called handbooks or text-books, until these choice productions consist of strings of abstracts only, and kill the spirit no less than destroy the body of the beautiful science of which they are the Kakodemons.

THE CITY PHARMACIST AND THE FARMER'S SISTER.

SHE was a pretty girl I wist,
Who called to buy a blister,
And she informed the pharmacist
She was a farmer's sister.

Her beauty gave his heart a twist,
He courted her and kissed her,
And soon they say the pharmacist
Will wed the farmer's sister.

The envious say her aim is pelf
And she's of girls the 'cutest,
But he is glad and th'inks himself
A lucky pharmacist.—*Spatula*.

Winter Session in Ireland.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

EVENING MEETINGS

THE opening evening meeting of the session was held at 67 Lower Mount Street on November 7, Mr. Robert J. Downes (President) in the chair. Mr. A. L. Doran, Bray, wrote to the effect that owing to want of time, and residing so far away from Dublin, he did not propose to offer himself for re-election as reporter in chemistry to the Society. Mr. J. S. Ashe likewise retired from the executive.

The President opened his address by reading extracts from an address delivered by the President of the Queen's College, Cork. The first referred to the practice, prevalent in German universities, of encouraging original work rather than always preparing the students for examination; the other to the absence of scientifically trained men in British trade. These excerpts, the President thought, indicated what their evening meetings were constituted for. The Licence examination should be regarded as the minimum requirement for entrance into the pharmaceutical calling, and candidates should prepare themselves not merely for the purpose of "passing," but of taking and holding a respectable position, not only among themselves, but before the public. It should be the ambition of every licentiate to add to the world's knowledge or to its benefit through the application of already-gained knowledge to some new purpose. "To devise some means of recognising merit in connection with our meetings, and by which we can encourage and reward effort, said the President, has long been my desire, and I hope I may yet attain it." The work may be, as Sir Rowland Blennerhassett says, "a very trivial contribution to science." But this is not the question. "The spirit it evokes is the important matter."

The election of a new committee was then proceeded with. The following were chosen:—Miss Aca Wyatt, and Messrs. W. V. Johnston, J. Michie, J. Tyrrie Turner, J. Smith, and H. O'Connor. The last-named gentleman was re-elected honorary secretary.

Reporters were appointed as follows:—Section of pharmacy, Mr. W. V. Johnston; section of chemistry, Mr. Henry Hunt; section of materia medica, Mr. J. Smith.

On November 14 a lecture was delivered on "Plants and Insects," by Professor F. W. Moore, M.R.I.A., Royal Botanic Gardens. The lecture was illustrated by lantern-slides, the lantern being manipulated by Mr. G. D. Beggs, the Vice-President.

Irish Pharmacists' Association.

The opening meeting of this Association was held at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on November 4, Mr. Henry Hunt, M.P.S.I. (President), in the chair.

Eight new members were elected.

Mr. Hunt delivered the presidential address, tracing the progress of the Association from its inception three years ago, and alluding to the many interesting functions held under its auspices. The financial position of the Association was sound, and it was well supported. In the new B.P., he said, they had a wide field for discussion, and he hoped many members would contribute papers upon it. The processes for many of the galenicals were essentially for the wholesale manufacturers, and if succeeding issues of the B.P. continued upon the same lines the old-fashioned pharmacist who made his own tinctures, liquors, &c., would become extinct. The new B.P. had upset some of the most cherished theories of the conscientious chemist, who looked upon concentrated infusions as an abomination. The tests given were more exhaustive and accurate than formerly, and it would be necessary for the chemist, instead of manufacturing his own galenicals, to make more elaborate arrangements for testing his own drugs.

Referring to the Poisons Bill, he claimed that the reputation of Irishmen as combatants in the political arena had been fully upheld in the opposition to this Bill.

He thought the register of vacancies which was to be kept by the Secretary would be of use to assistants and employers.

A discussion followed, and a suggestion that the Association have an office where letters could be received, and members meet, was favourably received.

The Association met again on November 18. The sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting to see after the new offices reported terms on which two places could be obtained, and they were requested to inquire further. Impromptu discussions on "The Influence of the P.A.T.A. on Chemists" and "Infusions, New and Old" took place. On the first-named question Mr. Taylor approved of the Association, on the ground that it helped to bring more profit to chemists. Mr. O'Farrell argued that circumstances and localities altered cases, and it was absurd for a chemist to lose customers and send business to the stores. The chemist ought to fight the cutter with his own weapons.

Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

A general meeting of the members of the above Society was held on November 7 to discuss: (1) How the trade will be affected by the recent interpretation of the Pharmacy Acts at Belfast; (2) if advisable for druggists to qualify as Associates of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland; and (3) the P.A.T.A.

Sir James Haslett, M.P., presided, and, referring to the first item, said he did not think the decisions affected the druggists in the slightest degree, or that any other course was open to the Magistrates but to record a conviction in each case. The law on the question was perfectly clear, and had been often laid down—viz, "that a shop cannot be run within a shop."

After a discussion it was ultimately agreed that no action should be taken, especially as no prosecutions had been instituted against any of the employes of chemists and druggists.

With reference to the second question, some of those present advocated druggists qualifying as associates, with the view of obtaining representation on the Council of the Society. It was finally decided to postpone further consideration until the Secretary could obtain information whether the Pharmaceutical Society would admit their members on the Council in proportion to the number of druggists qualifying. As to the P.A.T.A., letters were read by the Hon. Secretary from Mr. Glyn-Jones dealing with the proposed defence fund, and it was decided to leave the matter over for the present. Regarding the general work of the P.A.T.A., an interesting discussion took place; and on the motion of Mr. W. Shaw a resolution approving of the work of the P.A.T.A. was unanimously adopted.

"DISEASES AND REMEDIES."—This is a very useful volume, giving in a convenient form just such information as the pharmacist often desires, but we hope it will always be used judiciously and never lead to avoidable counter-prescribing. Nor should it fall into the hands of the general public, for it would thus encourage self-medication in a manner not conducive to the welfare of the patient.—*Meyer Brothers' Druggist.*

TRIBROMOPHENOL is used medicinally as an antiseptic. It is a solid in very soft white crystals, scarcely soluble in water, but soluble in alcohol. For surgical dressings the powder is simply sprinkled on cotton wool and applied to the part, or an ointment containing 10 gr. or more to the ounce of vaseline is used. The dose internally is 1 to 2 gr.

LIVELY TIMES IN A GERMAN SCHOOL.—A young English lady, who is teacher of English in one of the chief ladies' schools in Germany, writes in a private letter to her father, who is a doctor—"This house is a regular hospital, the girls are always going to doctors and dentists. I do think they might have their noses scorched at home in the holidays instead of waiting till they come to school. There are two whose noses have been burned somehow; they go twice a week to the nose-doctor; two others have to go three times a week to the eye-doctor; and five others pay visits to the dentist. One has a face-trouble, after using a wash on her face prescribed by the doctor who is a specialist on freckles; her face looked like raw beef for a week, and her freckles were not cured. The worst is that I have to take them to all these doctors."